Septuagenary Memorial

of the

United Methodist Free Church

Lowerfold

270

SEPTUAGENARY MEMORIAL

OF THE

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH,

LOWERFOLD.

LOWERFOLD U.M.F.C. OPENED 1870.

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VILLAGE OF LOWERFOLD (1905).

Steward of the U. M. F. Church, Lowestoft.

Vice President of the Lowestoft, Sitsoughs, and Hearsey Methodist Church Union.

SEPTUAGENARY MEMORIAL

OF THE

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH,

LOWERFOLD.

Sunday School & Church Records,

1835 TO 1905.

COMPILED BY JOHN FENTON,

CHAPEL STEWARD.

Rochdale:

"OBSERVER" GENERAL PRINTING DEPARTMENT, DRAKE-STREET.

1905.

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ERRATA.

Page 1, line 2, for "last" read "eighteenth."

Page 37, line 3, for "over" read "short of."

Page 59, line 19, for "foreman" read "foremen."

Page 61, line 20, for "father" read "grandfather."

J. F.

PREFACE.

THIS book is an effort to bring into a compact form facts and interesting incidents connected with the School and Church at Lowerfold, and also as a memorial of its attaining its Septuagenary, or the completion of its seventy years' history.

Some errors will probably have crept in, which is almost unavoidable in a work of this character, and some interesting incidents may have been omitted because of their not having come to the writer's knowledge. Will readers kindly acquaint me with anything of such a nature?—and if another edition should be issued the necessary additions and corrections can be made.

The three plans introduced are typographical facsimiles of the original copies. The year of the Rochdale plan is not on the original, and up to the present time there is some uncertainty, but it is probably 1789.

I have to acknowledge indebtedness to Mr. Albert H. Scholes for some of the photographs, to Mr. T. Pinder for the view of Lowerfold village, and to my son, Sergeant John Storey Fenton, R.E., for the sketch of the Cottage School.

I consider no apology necessary for attempting something of this description. There are so many happy and tender memories gathered around our Sunday School and Church during its history, that I am sure it will afford pleasure and encouragement to many both past and present scholars and members of the congregation in being reminded of them.

I also take this opportunity of thanking all those who have so kindly assisted me.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN FENTON.

Heald Cottage,
Lowerfold,
Rochdale,
May 25th, 1905.

The Rochdale Plan.

Time.	Places.	July.	Auguſt.					September.				October.			No	Preachers' Names.
		26	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18		
2	*Bacup.*		2		11		8		3		12		10		1	*D. Howarth.*
3½	*Wardlefold.*		7		3		5		6		10		4		2	*R. Wrigley.*
5	*Hallfold.*		8		11		8		7		12		5		3	*E. Madin.*
5	*Marland.*		4		7		14		8		9		12		4	*C. Standring.*
9	*Moorside.*		14		9		5		10		7		12		5	*W. Whitaker.*
9	*Lowerplace.*				13				8				7		6	*J. Wardleworth*
7½	*Newbold.*				13				4				8		7	*R. Stott.*
4	*Littleborough.*	5	10	3	12	4	7	8	9	5	11	14	13	2	8	*L. Kershaw.*
1	*Shore.*				10		9		4		5		11		9	*J. Wild.*
1	*Facet.*	11		1		10		6		13		2		3	10	*J. Heap.*
1	*Mill-end.*	1		C		3		11		10		13		12	11	*F. Atkinson.*
5	*Dixonfold.*	9		6		13		5		14		3		11	12	*J. Wood.*
7½	*Oakenrod.*	11		7		10		2		13		4		9	13	*J. Livsey.*
5	*Heywood.*	14		12		5		10		2		11		7	14	*J. Richardson.*
11	*Sunday-school.*	9	4	12	10	8	JA	TP	9	11	10	14	13	JA		
1	*Middleton.*				8				13				2			
3	*Diggles-school.*		11		9		12		10		4		8			
6	*Little-Clegg.*	7		5		11		12		8		10		13		
	Todmorden.				2				12							
7½	*Small-Bridge.*		10		12		7		9		11		13			

THE LORD'S DAY PLAN

OF THE

WESLEYAN-METHODIST PREACHERS IN THE ROCHDALE CIRCUIT.

1833.

PLACES.	MORNING LESSONS. HOURS.	Gen. 1. Mark 3.	Gen. 3. Mark 10.	Gen. 9 to v. 20. Luke 1 to v. 39.	Gen 19 to v. 30 Luke 7.	Gen. 27. Luke 14.	Gen. 39. Luke 21.	Gen. 43. John 4.	Exodus 3. John 11.	Exodus 9. Matt. 26.	Exodus 12. Romans 6.	Num. 16. Acts 11.	Num. 23. Acts 18.	Deut. 4. Acts 25.
		FEBRUARY.				MARCH.					APRIL.			
		3	10	17	24	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
ROCHDALE ...	10½	2	1	1	2C	2	4	1	2Q	2	1	1	2	2
	2½	14	28	15	19	12	26	24	32	L	2†	18	20	9
	6	2	2s	1	1C	2	2	1	1Q	2	2s	1	1	2
Heywood	10½	32	21	12	T	14	13	17	27	8	30	9	T	18
	2½	1	4	2C	T	1	1	2Q	4	1	30	2s	T	1L
	6	1	4	2C	16	1	1	2Q	4	1	26	2	28	1
Bagslate	10½	1	2	2C	1s	1	9	2Q	1	1	2	2	1	1
	2½	12	24	4C	28	10	15	13Q	30	20	33	19	8L	17
Wardle	11		11		9		16		8		5		22	
	2	2	11	1C	9	2	16	1Q	8	4	5L	1	22	2s
Littleborough	2½ 5½	22	1C	21	2	8	4	18	2Q	13	1s	16L	2	15
Lowerplace	2½ 6	4C	31	24	13	17	32	16	5L	33	22	28	27	30
Broad-lane	2½ 5½	13	8	22C	21	15	17	11	20	18	14	12	16	10
Small-bridge..	6	24	27	30	5C	13L	20	26	18	21	16	10	4	19
Milnrow	2½ 6	16	29C	10	18	21	12L	19	11		23	20	15	22
Castleton-moor.....	2½ 6	29	9C	7	26	4	18	28	21	10	19	24	11	20
Whitworth	2½ 6	17	20	32	14	22	29	21	12	31	24	23	26	11
Pottery	3	31	23	33	35	26	30	32	14		20	27	34	21
Spotland	2½	30	32	34	10	23	2-19	31	28		27	13	33	35
Healey-stones	3	19	17	11	31	35	33	4-10	16		34	32	23	24
Rakewood.....	10½	21	35	13	11	30	23	22	24	34	31	17	13	32
Temple	5½	11		17		19		20		9		4		5
Broadhalgh	6	28		29		31		34		26		33		25
Marland	6		34		7		25		29		28		12	
Bamford	6		25		27		1-28		7		29		32	
Car-gate	10½	20	26	18	17	33	8	9	25	28	13	31	30	14
Lower Shore.....	5½	34		14		11		29		35		26		12
Lower Fold	5½		33		8		31		22		17		14	
Rochdale S. School	2¾	5	19			9	22			32				33
Facit and Edenfield	10½ 2½				22				13				24	

PREACHERS.

1 W. Burt,
2 C. Cheetham,
3 R. Crowther,
4 J. Worrall,
5 J. Heape,
6 H. Wood,
7 M. Cheetham,
8 B. Hartley,
9 S. Heape,
10 J. Ashworth,
11 S. Harrison,
12 J. Mills,
13 R. Whitworth,
14 I. Holt,
15 N. Pearson,
16 J. Meadowcroft,
17 J. Griffith,
18 J. Milne,
19 J. Wilkinson,
20 J. Wilson,
21 E. Taylor,
22 W. Thornber,
23 L. Wild,
24 W. Whittaker,
25 T. Nield,
26 J. Pollit,
27 E. Townend,
28 W. Woodyer,
29 R. Beanland,
30 W. Briggs.

ON TRIAL.

31 G. Mellor,
32 S. Healey,
33 E. Whatmough,
34 J. Brearley,
35 A. Mills.

COLLECTIONS.

C Collection for the relief of embarrassed Chapels throughout the Connexion.

Q Quarterly Collection.

N.B.—The Stewards & Leaders, as well as the Preachers, will take care that the Collections are previously given out, and made at the times appointed.

The Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27th.—The Local Preachers' Meeting to begin at half-past Ten o'clock.

† Sunday School Children to be catechised and addressed.

T T. Townend, from the Bury Circuit.

Those Parents who wish to have their Children baptized in any of our Chapels, are requested to attend for that purpose, when a Travelling Preacher officiates, and give timely notice to the Chapel-keeper.

The Friends in the Country places of the Circuit, are requested to observe, that, in future, there will not be any preaching immediately before the Lovefeasts.

☞ The Hymn-Books used in the Methodist Chapels, together with the Supplement; the Methodist Magazine, Monthly, large Number 1s., small do. 6d.; the Youth's Instructor and Guardian, price 4d.; the Child's Magazine, 1d.; the Works of Messrs. Wesley & Fletcher, &c., may be had by applying at the Chapel-house, Rochdale.

(PRICE ONE PENNY.) HARTLEY, PRINTER

ADMONITIONS.

It is expected that every preacher will, if possible, attend to his own appointment; and when this is not practicable, he shall get his place supplied by one whose name is on the Plan, and not by any other Person.

He is also requested to begin and conclude at the proper time; seldom exceeding an hour, and especially in the Afternoon; and when it is convenient, let him conclude with a short Prayer Meeting.

A PLAN

OF THE

Wesleyan Methodist Association Preachers in the Rochdale Circuit, 1836.

Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it. —*Luke* 11c. 28v.

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your Servants, for Christ's sake.— 2 *Cor.*, 4c. 5v.

PLACES.	Morning Lessons. TIME.		Exodus 20 Mark 7	Numbers 13 Mark 14	Numbers 35 Luke 4	Deu. 11 Luke 11	Deu. 26 Luke 17	Joshua 6 Luke 24	Judges 8 John 7	Judges 20 John 14	1 Samuel 9 John 21	1 Samuel 20 Acts 7	2 Samuel 6 Acts 14	2 Samuel 20 Acts 21
			FEBRUARY.				MARCH.				APRIL.			
			7	14	21	28	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24
ROCHDALE	10½		SS	7	1	23	24	26	16	9	15	2	18	1
	2½		3	4	13	23	25	22	16	L	28	2	14	20
		6	18	5	8	10	11	21	12	6	17	3	10	8
HEYWOOD	10½		M	10	M	3	M	1	M	23	M	4	8	16
	2½		M	10	M	3	M	L	M	23	M	4	8	27
		6	16	2	18	14	12	7	20	11	21	13	5	2
MOOR-STREET		6		12	10	8	1	3	26	15	11	24	17	25
BAGSLATE		5½	8	11	7	21	17	12	3	27	19	28	29	21
WARDLE		5½	21	8	15	5	4	10	19	25	9	26	7	4
DOBBINS	2½		21	8	15	5	4	10	19	25	9	26	7	4
LITTLEBOROUGH	2½	5½	13	6	3	15	26	8	5	4	18	19	21	12
LOWERPLACE	2½	6	23	16	20	24	27	29	2L	1	20	14	16	22
SMALLBRIDGE		6	26	15	25	12	6	13	17	3	10L	22	9	11
WHITWORTH	2½	6	25	19	22	28L	29	4	10	5	7	21	11	13
POTTERY	2½		19	22	17	18	13L	25	28	29	26	27	6	9
SYKE		5½	19		17		13		28		26		6	
SPOTLAND	2½		4	28	29	9	7	5	6	18	27	16L	20	23
ELLINROD		6	4	28	29	9	7	5	6	18	27	16	20	23
BROADHALGH		6		27		11		20		14		29		15
LOWERFOLD	2½	5½	17	13	21	19	23	18	14	28	25	11	4	3
PRICKSHAW		6	28	25	26	6	9	15	13	21	12	6	19	5
HARTLEY		7		18		1		11		12		10		24
HEADY-HILL	2½		16				12				21			
		6		20	23	27		2	9	26		23	2	29
HOLLAND-STREET	2½		24	26	5	17	15	9	7	8	13	18	26	10
Roch. Monday Evn		7	24	9	10	12	13	17	19	21	24	26	3	4

PREACHERS' NAMES AND PLACE OF ABODE.

1 *Joseph Heape, Rochdale,*
2 *Moses Cheetham, Heywood,*
3 *Samuel Heape, Rochdale,*
4 *Samuel Harrison, Small Bridge,*
5 *John Mills, Rochdale,*
6 *Isaac Holt, Brickfield,*
7 *John Meadowcroft, Rochdale,*
8 *John Griffith, Rochdale,*
9 *John Milne, Rochdale,*
10 *John Wilkinson, Rochdale,*
11 *James Wilson, Broadhalgh,*
12 *William Thornber, Rochdale.*
13 *William Whittaker, Rochdale,*
14 *Thomas Nield, Heywood,*
15 *John Pollitt, Rochdale,*
16 *Elisha Townend, Heywood,*
17 *George Mellor, Rochdale,*
18 *Edwin Whatmough, Moss Mill,*
19 *James Brierley, Pottery,*
20 *John Butterworth, Heywood,*
21 *Charles Renshaw, Rochdale,*
22 *Thomas Spencer, Rochdale,*
23 *James Wright, Heywood.*
24 *William Harrison, Rochdale,*
25 *William Morley, Rochdale,*
26 *Charles Edwards, Rochdale,*
27 *Joseph Richardson, Heywood,*
28 *John Wilson, Prickshaw.*

ON TRIAL.

29 *Benjamin Glazebrook, Heywood.*

M Manchester Preacher. SS Sunday School Sermons. L Lovefeast.

The Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30th. The Local Preachers' Meeting will commence at Ten o'clock in the Morning. The Stewards and Leaders will meet at One o'clock.

Every preacher is expected punctually to attend to his appointments, except in cases of absolute necessity, and then himself to get a supply only from Preachers on this plan, or an accredited Wesleyan Preacher.

At those places where Lovefeasts are to be held, the Afternoon preaching will be given up on that day.

The Beginning of Methodism in Rochdale.

THE history of Methodism in Rochdale dates from the middle of the last century. It was in 1749 that John Wesley first visited and preached in the town, but the movement must have been felt prior to this, as John Bennett, of Derbyshire, at whose invitation the great revivalist came, reported the existence of "a little society" here in 1746. It was visited by W. Grimshaw, curate of Haworth, in 1747, when it met at "Widow Grimshaw's House." This Society could not have been very powerful, as the one at Bankhouse, Bagslate—repeatedly visited by Wesley, and where Whitfield is said to have preached—had about this period to be supplied by preachers from Bury, whilst Colne preachers regularly attended Smallbridge.

The first mention made of Rochdale in Wesley's Journal is under date 18th October, 1749. Mr. Wesley was on his way from Leeds, and says: "I rode, at the desire of J. Bennett, to Rochdale in Lancashire. As soon as ever we entered the town, we found the streets lined, on both sides, with multitudes of people, shouting, cursing, blaspheming, and gnashing upon us with their teeth. Perceiving it would not be practicable to preach abroad, I went into a large room open to the street, and called aloud, 'Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts.' The word of God prevailed over the fierceness of man, none opposed or interrupted, and there was a very remarkable

change in the behaviour of the people as we afterwards went through the town. We came to Bolton in the evening. We had no sooner entered the main street than we perceived the lions of Rochdale were lambs in comparison to those at Bolton. Such rage and bitterness I scarcely ever saw before in any creatures that have the form of man."

About 1760 the Society grew stronger, and a room was secured at Waterside, near the river, on a part of the site of the present Town Hall and utilised as a Meeting House. Subsequently the members moved to a room in Temple Court, off Blackwater-street, and thence, in 1770, when Rochdale was in the Keighley Circuit, to a new Chapel in Toad Lane, where the Pioneers' Central Store now stands.

Of this Chapel, in his Journal dated August 26th and 27th, 1787, Wesley wrote: "The House at Rochdale was well filled at 5 0 a.m. I have not seen so large a morning congregation, in proportion to the town, since I returned to England."

The Sunday School, which, from being of a peripatetic character since its foundation in 1782 by James Hamilton, had developed into a permanent institution connected with the Chapel in Toad Lane.

In 1793 the premises at Toad Lane were vacated for the newly-erected Church in Union-street, which was opened by the Revs. J. Benson,, M.A., J. Roberts, and T. Hanby. This was always spoken of as the Methodist Chapel, Rochdale, then in the Manchester Circuit and afterwards in the Oldham Circuit.

To meet the expenditure incurred by the Sunday School, it became necessary to hold annually special services, or, as they were commonly called, "Sings" or "Charity Sermons," the first of which was preached in Rochdale in 1785 or 1786 by Mr. Mayer, of Stockport.

The aptness of the term "Sings" is evident from the following resolution passed in 1809: "That there shall be nothing sung but what children can join in, and that there be no drum nor trumpet used on the occasion." The children were enjoined to attend wearing "neat plain caps, without bunches."

In 1795 the Church, separating from the Oldham Circuit, became the head of the new Rochdale Circuit, which included Bacup, Heywood, and Littleborough.

In 1821 Dr. Adam Clarke preached the anniversary sermons to a crowded congregation in Union-street Chapel. During the sermon a cry was raised that the gallery was falling; a scene of wild disorder followed, threatening to develop into a general panic; confidence was quickly restored, however, by the quiet behaviour of the preacher and leading men of the congregation—one calling out, "Sit still, friends, we are going gradually"—and by the choir commencing to sing "Praise God from whom."

The following resolutions will show the minds of the Methodists of those early days, and also the strictness of their church and school discipline:—

1809 To celebrate the Jubilee of George III. "... intend to have the children assembled at five o'clock in the evening, when they will give to each a cake and a cup of spiced ale, to give them the opportunity of drinking his Majesty's health."

1819 "That a class be formed of the worst boys in the school, and that sticks be provided for those teachers who want them."

1833 "A charge having been preferred against ——— of taking away his goods by night in order to defraud his landlady—it was moved and seconded that he be expelled the Society."

The old Chapel being considered unsafe because of some defect in the original construction of the roof, the present Union-street Chapel was built and opened in March, 1826, the following taking part in the opening services: Revs. R. Newton, D. Stoner, T. Lessey, P. Garrett, J. Bunting, M.A., and Mr. ("Billy") Dawson. The collections amounted to £302 7s. 7d. in addition to the sum of £1,840 previously subscribed.

COTTAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL 1835-1846.
LOWERFOLD, NEAR ROCHDALE.

John Ormerod.
Robt. Standring. Richd. Lord. Abm. Williams. Thomas Smith. John Whitehead.

LOWERFOLD SUNDAY SCHOOL
AND
CHURCH RECORDS.

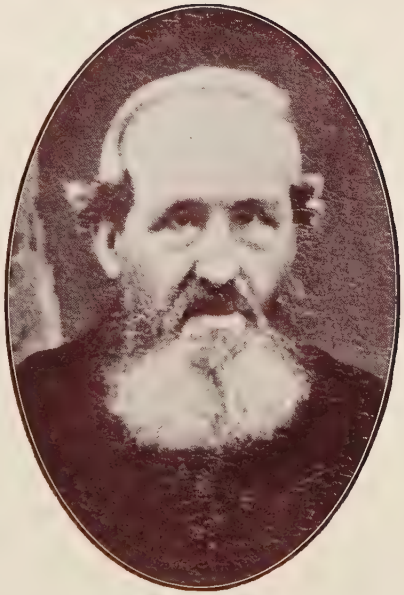
LOWERFOLD Sunday School was established in the reign of William IV., and in the year 1835. The scholars' register commences on May 25th of that year.

The premises first occupied by the founders from this time to 1846 consisted of a stone cottage in the village on the west side of the turnpike road below and adjacent to the site of the present School. For a time it was also occupied partly as a dwelling-house by Phœbe Clegg. She used the room nearest the road for her household. It was divided by a wood partition from the remainder of the house, forming a lobby which served also as the entrance to the School. The School occupied the room nearest the field on the west side, commonly called the parlour; the attic and also the two bedrooms united in one. This room served both as preaching room and schoolroom. Ultimately the whole of the house was occupied by the School, the lower rooms serving as class rooms. Under the School was a little shop which was also used for baking oat-cake, then very much eaten, more especially by the poorer classes. The entrance to the shop was by a door at the gable end of the building. The building belonged to Mr. Lomax of Heald, and was afterwards purchased by Mr. Robert Leach of Harridge. The only entrance to the School was from the main road by a few steps guarded by straight iron railing. The premises were so small and inconvenient that it was found necessary to borrow St. Stephen's School at Shawclough for anniversary sermons, then sometimes called charity sermons. The singers marched to and from Shawclough two by two, the females in white frocks, and forming a procession. Tea

was provided for them in the cottage schoolroom at Lowerfold. An interesting account of the early history of the School is given by one of its founders, Mr. Robert Standring, a former teacher and superintendent, printed in 1874 by Mr. Gilbert Haworth, 48, Yorkshire-street, Rochdale, in a pamphlet entitled "Sunday Schools among the Mountains, as they were fifty years ago." In this pamphlet he says: "My next field of labour was at Lowerfold, a village a mile and a half from my house in Rochdale, to which School I have walked upwards of thirty years, without the walk ever appearing long to me. The School, like Noah's Ark, consisted of first, second, and third storeys. It was not pitched either within or without, but its atmosphere was fragrant with grateful affection and brightened with Christian friendship. The lower storey was unoccupied; the second, which measured fourteen cubits by eight, was our chapel, school, and orchestra. Sixty scholars occupied the classes and twelve persons formed the congregation. The orchestra was a remnant of the room at the top of the wooden stairs. Our only instrument was a violoncello, our music stand a crooked stick brought from the wood inserted into a shapeless piece of timber for a foundation, and mounted by an equally elegant piece on which to place the book. That stand was a volume on the economy of the teachers. With a view to saving expense one of them made it; one who has long since been removed to a place where music is sung by the tongues of angels, and where there is no need of notes to aid the memory. The upper storey was a shelf six feet wide placed over the centre of the School which received light from the sky. It contained two small desks for writing upon. Two of the teachers led the singing. They were expert in leading each other and the congregation astray. The violoncello was purchased with money obtained by canvassing the neighbourhood from door to door, which was done in the evening by the teachers when they were wearied with their daily toil, who had to traverse roads which required the light of a lantern in order to pass safely over them. When the School was established I believe that there was not a single professor of religion in the village except those connected with the School. But this state of things was soon altered. A light went forth into the village and into the mountains and valleys around it. Young children began to set an example to their parents and neighbours by walking in the way to heaven. Some

one may ask me what kind of scholars came to the school. Well, most of them stood in need of instruction. They did not attend a day school. There were no short timers. They had no books at home, nor did they care much about their education or future welfare. They did not know much about what had happened in the world, nor what was likely to take place in it. One day my class was reading the wonderful account of Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego. The strange story astonished one of my scholars so much that he rose to his feet saying, 'Did these things appun i' yur time, taicher?' Another day we were reading the Sermon on the Mount. When we had read that heavenly injunction, 'If a man smite thee on the one cheek turn to him the other also,' one of the boys looked me in the face and said, 'Dun you maun to saa taicher, ut if a chap wur to hit you hith tone side o'th' face ut yodden let him hit you o'th' tother?' I replied, 'I don't know, George, what I should do in such a case, but I know what I ought to do.' 'Bith guy, but if a lad wur to hit me o'th' face hod soon let him see whether had let him hit me o'gen ur not.' Each of these boys was a great representative. There were numbers of the same kind around the school. George, however, came to think as I think, and he has been a man of peace for many years. Some of our scholars became intelligent above their years and an ornament to the village. They were prayerful and devout. Such young people I have not often known. The teachers, too, were noble men, not reeds shaken with the wind. They were steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Their table was open to the man of God who came to preach the gospel of peace. Their cottages were the homes of the benefactors of the villagers when they came to teach the way to a better world. They who watered others have been watered themselves. They have followed honourable avocations. Some of them have been raised to positions of confidence, and others have become comparatively rich, and the blessing of the Lord rests on their children and their children's children. The opinions and examples of our scholars became a restraint upon their relatives and neighbours. The morals of the village were gradually changed, innovations were made on ancient habits and foolish customs. The number of those who were once seen in week-day clothing on the Sabbath was reduced. Men were not so frequently seen skulking behind hedges with the bottle and the glass. 'Tay un rum baggins' crept

into corners, and such elegant entertainments as 'kettle-rants' became rare. Rush carts began to stand on shaky ground and at last fell down like Dagon before the ark. The School was liberally patronised by our Rochdale friends, and we hope ever to remember their kindness to us. Our neighbours looked upon us with great coldness for some time, but the benevolent labours of the teachers modified their prejudice, and after a while they gave us liberal support. The School continued to increase until we began to talk about building a new one; but we were only working men and we had no money wherewith to build. How must we get it? became the question. Well, we resolved first of all to help ourselves and then go from door to door and ask our neighbours to help us. We divided the country for about two miles round into districts and went out two and two to beg. We realised only a few pounds in our district, for some contributions did not exceed threepence, but they were to us as the widow's mite. A number of our friends gave us twenty pounds each, which surprised us greatly, for such help was very rare at that time. The School cost about five hundred pounds. Our numbers have continued to increase, with slight fluctuations, up to the present time. The average number of names on the books during the last eleven years is two hundred and eighty-nine. About two thousand scholars have been taught in the School; some have remained in it for more than twenty years. We have lately built a beautiful Chapel, which has cost one thousand seven hundred pounds. The total cost of carrying on the school has been four or five hundred pounds. To teach the children gathered from the neighbourhood the teachers have travelled a greater distance than would belt the earth; one of them has walked not less than five thousand miles. It must have taken one thousand five hundred hours to do it; but how shall we count the time spent in preparing for teaching, in reading, writing, and study? If all this labour must be paid for as it used to be when Sabbath schools were established, how great would be the expenditure of our School? What shall the future of our School be? When the present premises shall have been a blessing to six or eight generations they may be succeeded by larger or more durable buildings, and that may be repeated down to the time when the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible. And we hope the praises of God will be sung down to the end of



Mr. JOHN LEACH.

Mrs. JANE LEACH,

First Registered Scholar.

time on the very spot where we have erected the tabernacles of the Lord."

The following incidents and events have been collected from a variety of sources, oral and written:—

1833.—It appears from the Lord's Day plan of the Wesleyan Methodist preachers in the Rochdale Circuit that services were held in the village of Lowerfold as early as February 3rd, 1833, on Sunday evening at half-past five o'clock once a fortnight.

1835, May 25.—Lowerfold Sunday School established. Register dates from this time, but other records of the School's earliest years were destroyed by a fire which occurred in the vestries in 1870. There are 16 scholars' names registered on this date. Of this number there is only one survivor, that is Martha Pilling, now Martha Hoyle, who met on the first Sunday the Cottage School was opened. She is now in her 80th year and resides in Healey Dell and still continues a worshipper in Lowerfold Chapel.

1835, May 25.—Jane Hill is the first name entered in the scholars' register and was entered on this date at eight years of age. She was the daughter of a teacher in the Sunday School, John Hill of Lowerfold, and married John Leach, of Watergrove. Both she and her husband in after years manifested great interest and attachment to the Church and School. Mr. Leach was a teacher and leader of the singers, as well as a musician on the violoncello for over thirty years. Along with Mr. James Mills as accompanist on the violin, these two instrumentalists assisted the singing before the school possessed a harmonium as well as after. Her sons and daughters were long connected with the School and rendered very good service until their removal to Edinburgh. Mrs. Leach died in her 77th year on the 28th January, 1903, at her daughter's (Mrs. Robinson) residence and was interred at Dalry Cemetery, Edinburgh, alongside her husband, who was interred at the same place and died on the 1st April, 1892.

1835, September.—About this time a serious disagreement of opinion took place between the itinerant preachers of the Wesleyan body and the leading laymen of the Societies. This resulted in the separation from the Mother Church of a very large number of members, many of them being persons of considerable position and influence in town and in the Church. These friends immediately

sought a new spiritual home. They formed themselves into a Society and continued the Sunday School, selecting as a place in which to worship God a warehouse in Hunters' Lane.

1836, January 1.—The first quarterly meeting of the Wesleyan Methodist Association for the Rochdale Circuit was held, and Mr. John Petrie occupied the chair. Thirty-five gentlemen present in addition to the chairman. Lowerfold appears on the plan of preachers' appointments, commencing on February 7th of this year.

1836, September.—Resolution passed by Circuit meeting admitting Bury Societies as a part of the Rochdale Circuit. Rev. James Molineux appointed as the Circuit minister. He was the first to serve the Circuit in that capacity.

1836, December.—The Shaw Society and the Bacup Society admitted into the Circuit, comprising what are now (1905) the following Circuits: Baillie-street, Castlemere, Littleborough, Bury, Bacup, and Heywood.

1837, January 8.—Wesleyan Methodist Association Chapel, Baillie-street, having been in course of erection since the early part of last year, was opened on this date. The Revs. Dr. Warren, Robert Eckett, T. Allen of Sheffield, J. Aldis, J. Ely of Leeds, Mr. David Rowland and Mr. Young of Sunderland were requested to assist at the opening services.

1837, October.—Rev. John Nelson appointed as Circuit minister and to reside at Heywood, the Circuit now employing two itinerant ministers.

1838.—There are 62 preachers on the Circuit plan at this time.

1840, September 13.—The following is the earliest list of officers in the Lowerfold School which we have met with and appears in the teachers and scholars' roll book on this date:—

Superintendent.....Francis Clegg.

TEACHERS.

1st Bible class boys .....George Rothwell and Richard Lord.

1st Testament class boys ...Joseph Mitchell and Robert Standring.

2nd Testament class boys...Abraham Mitchell, jun.

3rd class boys .....Robert Birch and James Cockrill.

2nd class boys.....Abraham Mitchell.
1st class boys.....Charles Greenwood and Joseph Mitchell.
Alphabet class boys .....John Hill.
1st Bible class girls .....Robert and Alice Clegg.
2nd Bible class girls .....William Rothwell and Mary Warburton.
1st Testament class girls ...Martha Smith and Hannah Hambler.
2nd Testament class girls....Ann Mitchell and Hannah Stansfield.
3rd class girls .....Ann Stott and Betty Earnshaw.
2nd class girls .....Mary Schofield and John Hill and Elizabeth Smith.
Joint Librarians .....Abraham Mitchell and John Hill.
Secretary .....Richard Lord.
Visitors .....Francis Clegg and Richard Lord.

1840, September 20.—Gallery of Baillie-street Chapel erected this year and Chapel re-opened on this date. The Chapel was erected on the "Shareholders' Plan," and it was decided to pay a dividend of 2½ per cent. for the past year. The following advertisement had been issued by means of a large black-letter placard:—

TO BUILDERS.

PERSONS DESIROUS OF CONTRACTING FOR THE WORKS REQUIRED IN

RAISING AND PUTTING

A

GALLERY

INTO THE

WESLEYAN ASSOCIATION CHAPEL,

BAILLIE-STREET, ROCHDALE,

May inspect the plans and specifications in the Vestry of the said Chapel.

Tenders for the whole of the work, in one sum, sealed and addressed to the Trustees of the Chapel, care of Mr. John Howard, Woolstapler, Rochdale, must be sent in on or before Friday, the 7th day of June.

Rochdale, May 28th, 1839.

Hartley, Printer and Bookseller, Rochdale.

1842.—St. Stephen's Sunday School, Shawclough, was established this year and enlarged in 1844.

1846, September 27.—Lowerfold Wesleyan Methodist Association School built by Samuel Brierley, farmer and stonemason, of Heald Farm, Lowerfold. The School also used as a preaching room and opened for public service on the last Sunday of September in this year. Opening sermons preached by the Rev. Joseph Townend.

1847, January 24.—Temporary Church and School opened in Mr. Robert Tweedale's warehouse at Birches and subsequently established at Christ's Church, Healey.

1847, June 19.—Lowerfold Sick and Burial Society established (see memorial card, 19 June, 1897).

1849, July 12.—Foundation stone of Christ Church, Healey, laid by Mr. Jacob Tweedale, of Healey Hall. The edifice was opened the year following with Masonic ceremony. Rev. R. Minnitt, Vicar.

1850, November 13.—Leave granted by Trustees to John Broadbent to use the School for a Day School.

1851, March 30.—On the last Sunday in this month charity sermons preached by the Rev. John Guttridge.

1851, March 9.—John Baron and Francis Clegg appointed Sunday School Superintendents.

1851, July.—The Day School now becomes in charge of William Bellhouse as Master in place of John Broadbent.

1851, December 28.—William Baron appointed Superintendent in place of his brother John.

1853, Whit-Friday.—Scholars visited Hollingworth Lake in wagons.

1854, February 22.—It was resolved to have ten pews fixed in the schoolroom, and on November 10 that the rent of the pews be eightpence the seat per quarter, to be paid in advance. Richard Lord to be Steward.

1854, July 26.—Annual Assembly of the Wesleyan Methodist Association held in Baillie-street Chapel.

1855, April 22.—At a special teachers' meeting it was resolved that the scholars go to Nick-a-Bank, but if found practicable stop at Warm-Hole, on Whit-Friday next.

LOWERFOLD SUNDAY SCHOOL. OPENED 1846.

1855, June 5 and 6.—Amalgamation of the Wesleyan Methodist Association and the Wesleyan Reformers at a Conference of the two bodies at Baillie-street Chapel and now forming the United Methodist Free Churches.

1855, October.—Gas adopted in the Sunday School. Previously lighted by candles and oil. The School was heated by a fire at each end and a round iron stove in the middle of the room, fed with coke.

1856, January 25.—James Baron, the brother of John and William Baron, resigned as teacher.

1856, February 16.—"Rochdale Observer" first number was issued. The following issues of this paper contain brief accounts of many gatherings at Lowerfold.

1856, February.—Crockery bought by proceeds of Christmas singing, and lettered "Wesleyan Association Sunday School, Lowerfold, 1856." They were bought of George Ashworth and Sons, Hanley, Staffordshire, through John Whitehead, earthenware dealer, who was also Superintendent of the School for a number of years. Previous to this time pots, spoons, and kettles, etc., for tea parties were borrowed from home by the female teachers and scholars who happened to be appointed waitresses at the tables.

1856, March 9.—John Baron resigned his connection with the School on account of his removal to Burnley, which was accepted by the Committee with expressions of regret at the separation of one who has laboured so long, diligently, and successfully amongst us.

1856, December 19.—A Bible awarded to Ann Pickup in the Sunday School by John Chadwick for merit in committing to memory Psalm 119.

1857, October 8.—First entry in baptismal register—Edwin, son of Edwin and Betty Buckley, Lowerfold, ostler for S. and E. Tweedale, Mount Cottage, by Thomas Livesey, preacher.

1861, July 6.—Tea Meeting in celebration of school premises being free from debt.

1861, 1862, and 1863.—Lancashire Cotton Panic owing to the American Civil War. Great distress in the town.

1863, July 29.—U.M.F.C. Annual Assembly held at Baillie-street Chapel.

1864, November 13.—The Rev. John Kershaw, of Hope-street Chapel, a native of Lowerfold, was permitted to preach in Lowerfold Chapel at his own request. He founded his discourse upon the text, Job xiv., verse 10, "Man dieth and wasteth away. Yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?"

1864.—Average attendance of scholars for the year: Morning 191, afternoon 209, or 200 out of a total of 292 scholars on the books.

1865, July 31.—First sod cut of the Shawforth line of railway near Foxholes.

1867, December.—Day school register is continued up to this time. Teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Hoyle, formerly Elizabeth Pickup. Francis Clegg gave her, while a girl and a scholar in the Sunday School, a recitation in manuscript to learn. She could not read writing up to that time, but by her effort in committing the recitation to memory she accomplished the art and, afterwards attaining much proficiency, became school-mistress of the Day School.

1869, June 12.—Advertisement in "Rochdale Observer":—

> United Methodist Free Church, Lowerfold.—The Corner Stone of a New Chapel will be laid (D.V.) on Saturday afternoon, June 12th, 1869, by Mr. Councillor Lord. Ceremony to commence at half-past three o'clock. The Revs. Joseph Townend, W. M. Hunter, E. Bailey, and Mr. Thomas Smith will take part in the proceedings. The tea will be provided in the schoolroom adjoining for half-past four o'clock.
>
> Tickets, sixpence each, may be had at the door. A Public Meeting will be afterwards held. Thomas Watson, Esq., in the chair. The following gentlemen have consented to be present and are expected to address the same: Rev. J. Townend, Rev. W. M. Hunter, and Rev. E. Bailey, Mr. Councillor Harley, Mr. Councillor Thomas Schofield, John Petrie, Esq., Mr. John Ashworth (author of "Strange Tales"), Mr. Francis Clegg (of Manchester), Mr. Robert Standring, and other teachers.

NEW CHAPEL AT LOWERFOLD.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE.

The members of the U.M.F.C. worshipping at Lowerfold, who have since the year 1846 been meeting in the schoolroom in the village, have at length succeeded in commencing the erection of a new Chapel on a plot of freehold land purchased from Mr. Samuel Tweedale. As some indication of the work carried on by the friends it may be mentioned that the population of the village is something like 600, and there are no less than 327 scholars in the Sunday School. There were 270 children in the procession which walked around the neighbourhood previous to the ceremony.

The building, which will accommodate 400 persons, will cost about £1,400.

It is about to be erected at the back of the present Day Schools up to a new street leading up to and into Whitworth Road. The building will be seen from the high road leading from Shawclough to Ending. The style is Italian, carried out with the utmost simplicity and neatness to harmonise with the Schools with which it is connected by a covered passage from the centre of the Chapel to enable the scholars to enter without the necessity of passing into the open air. The building will be of dressed stone, and entered by a flight of steps to a door in the centre of one of three large arches constructed in a slightly projecting porch having a bold bracket cornice. Above the cornice there will be three more arches in the main building, and over this appears a stone panel engraved with the words, "United Methodist Free Church, 1869," and windows on each side to light a small gallery over the entrance porch. The capital will have a neat cornice round it, with ornamental finial at the apex. The Chapel will be 60 feet by 42 feet inside, and will comfortably seat 400 persons.

The pews will be open at the ends and of ample size, on a slightly rising floor from the pulpit platform. The greatest attention has been paid to ensure comfort to those worshipping in the building by the appliances for warming and ventilating. The contractor for mason's work is Mr. Thomas Shore, of Healey, and the architect is Mr. Edward N. Macdougall, Rochdale.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone was performed on Saturday by Mr. Councillor Lord, who, we understand, has contributed handsomely to the funds. A goodly number of spectators were present. Among those on the platform were the Revs. W. M. Hunter, J. Townend, E. Bailey, Messrs. Thomas Smith, John Ashworth (author of "Strange Tales"), etc., etc. After singing and prayer,

Mr. Thomas Smith, in presenting the trowel and mallet to Mr. Councillor Lord, expressed his pleasure at the large attendance to witness the ceremony, and hoped the work of erection would progress so satisfactorily that at length the flag which now floated above the stone would wave above the building to indicate its completion. He briefly adverted to the difficulties which had stood in the way of the friends in their endeavour to commence the erection of the Chapel, and reminded them that, notwithstanding the dullness of trade and other adverse circumstances, chapels were being built in all parts of the district, which was a pleasing sign of religious progress. He mentioned as a reason why their assembled friend and fellow teacher, Mr. Richard Lord, was selected to perform the ceremony, that he had laboured in connection with that School from the first dawning of manhood, and long before the adjoining School was built he was engaged in the endeavour to train the children of the locality in the truths contained in the Bible. From the time when the School met in a small room on the other side of the way until the present day he had continued his labours, not on alternate Sundays, but every Sunday except when his health failed him; and so when the matter came before the teachers' meeting they determined to confer upon him the honour of laying the stone. Having further referred to Mr. Lord's indefatigable labours in the school and to his affections towards the scholars, he formally presented him with the silver trowel, remarking that it had not been purchased as usual out of the building fund, but by private and voluntary subscriptions.

Mr. Councillor Lord, having duly declared the stone to be laid, said that as he cast his eye towards the old sanctuary over the way, it called to his mind an incident which occurred more than twenty years ago. He had been addressing the young people in the room, and as he stepped down from the desk he thought that would be the last time he

would have an opportunity of speaking to them. Having made this allusion to his failing health, he expressed his thanks at being spared until the 12th June, 1869. Many of those present were not aware of the circumstances which led to the origin of that school. In the year 1835 there was a great disruption among the Wesleyan body in consequence of its ministers having attempted to pass laws which we thought to be not in accordance with the rules laid down in the Bible. A considerable number of persons seceded from the Wesleyan body on that occasion, and among the number was the late Mr. Robert Clegg, who resided in that village and whose name had become a household word in the neighbourhood. That gentleman associated with others and established a school in the village, and ultimately, with the assistance of kind friends from Rochdale, the adjoining building was erected. He referred to the efforts made by other Christian bodies to establish schools in the village, all of which were attended more or less with failure. Their friends at Healey Church started a School at the Birches, and the first Sabbath they opened they took away about half the scholars from the United Methodist friends, and they rather thought they would have to sell their old schoolroom and become bankrupt, but in about six weeks after the establishment of the School at Birches nearly the whole of the lost scholars returned to the U.M. School. Though he was a Nonconformist, he loved Christians of other denominations—(hear, hear)—and he was not ashamed to stand there that day and acknowledge the respect in which he held the Rev. R. Minnitt, of Healey. (Hear, hear.) He believed him to be a Christian and a gentleman, and he could not speak the words more from his heart did he expect to be called to his final account that day. There had not been, he rejoiced to say, those unseemly squabbles between them and their Church friends which had unhappily occurred in some parts of the country, and this had resulted from the fact that there had been on both sides a desire to maintain peace. Having remarked upon the advantageous terms on which the friends had been able to obtain the land from Mr. Samuel Tweedale, when that gentleman had been made acquainted with the circumstances of the case, he referred to the absence of the Rev. John Kershaw on the ground of failing health, and again remarked upon the interest taken by the late Mr. Clegg in everything connected with

the School. He said that before he died he expressed his confidence in the endeavour of him (the speaker) to get the buildings freed from debt. When the Right Hon. the President of the Board of Trade was in the village he asked him (Mr. Councillor Lord) if he thought the village and neighbourhood was any better for the efforts of him and his friends in building the adjoining School, and he was able with confidence to answer in the affirmative. Having thanked them for the honour conferred upon him, in conclusion he reminded them that there was a great work before them and exhorted them all to work and pray in order that their efforts in erecting the building might be crowned with success. (Applause.)

The Rev. J. Townend gave a short sketch of the polity of the U.M.F.C., remarking in regard to the conference that Rochdale, with its 2,140 Church members, could send three representatives, while 25 members were entitled to send one.

After the singing of a hymn a substantial tea was provided in the schoolroom, to which no less than 463 sat down. After the repast Mr. Thomas Watson occupied the chair at the public meeting. There were on the platform the Revs. Joseph Townend, W. M. Hunter, and E. Bailey, Messrs. Thomas Schofield, John Ashworth, Frank Clegg (Manchester), Councillors Lord and Harley, Thomas Smith, Robert Standring, Oliver Ormerod, A. Williams, C. Renshaw, W. Lord, S. Lord, S. Taylor, and E. N. Macdougall (architect).

The Chairman, having expressed his pleasure at being present, uttered a hope that the proposed new Chapel would be successfully completed. He pointed out the desirability of the Chapel being finished as early as possible in order to allow of the room in which they were assembled being used as a schoolroom alone, and then they could retire into the adjacent building for the worship of God.

Mr. William Lord (Secretary) read the following copy of the document which was placed in the cavity of stone, and also the report appended setting forth the progress of the work :—

COPY OF DOCUMENT.

The Sunday School was opened in a cottage of this village in the year 1835. The schoolroom adjoining was erected in the year 1846 at a cost of £500 and has been

free from debt eight years. Its Trustees were Messrs. Francis Clegg, Robert Standring, Richard Lord, Thomas Schofield, John Whitehead, William Standring, James Hoyle, Ellis Jones, James Tweedale, Oliver Ormerod, James Williamson, Robert Clegg, Jonas Newall, Thomas Shaw, and James Baron, the last two being dead at the date of this document. This Chapel, which is expected to cost about £1,400, is undertaken by the teachers and office bearers of the School, whose names are as follow: Thomas Smith and Alfred Butterworth, superintendents; George Taylor and Henry Wilson, visitors; Abraham Williams, treasurer; John Mills, secretary; James Lord and Joseph Mills, librarians; teachers, John Leach, Jonathan Wood, Eli Ashworth, Edmund Ashworth, James Kay, Henry Wilson, James Mills, William Lord, Samuel Lord, Joseph Livesey, George Fielding, Benjamin Renshaw, Thomas Shore, William Tweedale, William Mills, David Pickup, Abram Greenwood, James Jackson, Job Broadbent, and David Ashworth, Mary Ann Ingham, Sarah Smith, Mary Butterworth, Margaret Pickup, Alice Mills, Martha Bamford, Mary Bamford, Sarah Ann Wood, Sarah Parker, Ann Hacking, and Jane Butterworth.

Number of scholars—boys 156, girls 171, total 327. Average attendance—morning 189, afternoon 204. Members of Society—males 23, females 60. Leaders, Thomas Smith, Robert Standring, James Kay, and William Lord.

Steward, Joseph Livesey.

Building Committee: Messrs. Richard Lord, Robert Standring, Thomas Smith, John Ormerod, Abraham Williams, George Taylor, Henry Wilson, Eli Ashworth, and John Mills, along with John Petrie, senior, and Mr. Thomas Watson, deputed by the Baillie-street quarterly meeting; William Lord, secretary; Samuel Lord, treasurer.

The corner stone was laid by Mr. Councillor R .Lord of Middle Healey, and 24, Lord-street, Rochdale, on Saturday, 12th June, 1869. Architect, E. N. Macdougall, Rochdale. Builder, Thomas Shore, Healey, near Rochdale.

There was also placed in the cavity a copy of the local papers and the usual coins of the realm.

REPORT.

"At the yearly teachers' meeting, 25th December, 1863, it was resolved 'That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to take preliminary steps with a view to building a new Chapel or enlarging our present School.' After several public meetings, on the 5th November, 1864, it was resolved 'That owing to the badness of trade, the many enlargements of chapels and schools, and the erection of new ones in the Rochdale Circuit, we think it desirable to postpone the erection of our Chapel for ten or twelve months. We took no further steps for a considerable time, but on the 4th May, 1866, we concluded the purchase of a plot of freehold land from Samuel Tweedale, Esq. We then endeavoured to lease the adjoining plot and ultimately came to terms. But on receiving our lease it contained a most objectionable clause which we had difficulty in getting erased, and not till the 18th of November, 1868, was the matter properly settled by signing the lease. After delays carrying us for five years we commenced to build."

Annexed to the report was a financial statement which showed that there was a balance of £36 7s. 9d., which with £39 10s. 0d. promised made a total of £75 17s. 9d.

Mr. Macdougall (architect) gave a short description of the building from the statement at the head of this report.

Mr. John Ashworth (author of "Strange Tales"), in the course of his observations, remarked upon the blessed work of building places in which to worship Almighty God, for it was neither Whigism, Toryism, or Radicalism, but righteousness which exalteth a nation. Referring to instances in his own life, he said that Mr. Councillor Lord and himself were the only two persons now living who sat on the same form at the Sunday School. He mentioned in passing that he had recently given a man a shilling to carry the form to which he had alluded from Bagslate to his (Mr. Ashworth's) own house, and it was now in his possession. He gave the young some excellent advice, telling them to keep away from public-houses, and concluded with noticing the progress of Methodism in nearly all parts of the country.

Mr. Francis Clegg (Manchester) said he could not but regard the present success of the cause at Lowerfold with deep melancholy feelings. He referred to the struggle

which the United Methodists had had in order to carry out their work of establishing a School, and when it was remembered that others had failed to meet with success it would appear that God had signally blessed them (the United Methodists) in their efforts. He reminded them that the results of their work must of necessity be gradual and urged them to merge all minor differences of opinion in the desire to complete their new Chapel and to work in the cause of God.

Mr. Thomas Schofield, speaking as an old Trustee, thought at first that the present building would have been adequate for the requirements of the friends of Lowerfold, inasmuch as people rather preferred to be crowded in a place of worship. However, let them get their new Chapel completed and then use the present building as a Day School, for which they could seek that Government aid which their convictions as Dissenters would not previously permit them to ask for. Having referred to the bright promise of the future often indulged in by young people, he urged upon them all to continue in the path of duty, quoting the words of Longfellow:—

"Trust no future howe'er pleasant.
Let the dead past bury its dead.
Act, act in the living present
Heart within and God o'erhead."

The Rev. W. M. Hunter, in the course of some eloquent remarks, pointed out the moral, social, and religious superiority of England over other nations of the earth. He admitted in regard to her morality, however, that there were some dark spots, as the following facts would testify. There were, for instance, no less than 60,000 drunkards who died every hour, and it was estimated that in the Metropolis alone no less than one and a half million persons never entered the House of God. There were no less than 12,000 professed thieves in London and no less than 500,000 poor deluded women walking the streets of our great towns, and no less than 30,000 vagrants wandering about the country. Notwithstanding this, he maintained that England was socially, morally, and religiously at the head of other nations. To what did we owe this? Not to the excellency of our constitution, or education, or civilisation, but to the truths contained in that Book, the Bible. He pointed out the effect

of the Bible on Druidism, Popery, science, slavery, Paganism, and social life. He urged them, in conclusion, to persevere with the work they had in hand and trust in God for the result. (Applause.)

Mr. Robert Standring having briefly addressed the meeting,

The Rev. E. Bailey offered as a practical suggestion that the scholars should begin from the present time to put by so much week by week, and when the Chapel was completed to present it to their teachers in order that they might be free from debt.

Mr. Councillor Lord, having expressed his thanks to the friends for their support, uttered the hope that before they appealed to their friends in Rochdale they would raise £1,000 among themselves. But he could not say whether his hopes would be realised or not. If they were true, the debt on the Chapel would not be a very large one.

This concluded the proceedings. A collection was made at the doors, as well as after the ceremony of laying the stone.—From "Rochdale Observer."

1869, November 27.—At a meeting of the Society Brother Robert Standring read a paper on the subject of "What can be done for the good of the Society."

1870, February 22nd.—At a meeting of the Society Brother William Lord read a paper. Subject, "The best means of inducing our neighbours to attend God's House."

1870, March 6.—Brother Thomas Henry Ashworth resigned as tract distributor on account of his emigration to Ontario, Canada.

1870, April.—The following advertisement was issued:

> United Methodist Free Church, Lowerfold.—Opening of a new Chapel. On Sunday, 24th April, 1870, the Rev. Joseph Townend will preach. Morning at 10 30, Evening at 6 o'clock. In the afternoon of the same day the Rev. S. Chapman will preach at 2 30. On Wednesday evening, 27th April, at 7 30, a sermon by the Rev. S. Sellers, senior, of Cross Hills. On Sunday, May 1st, the Rev. J. S. Rendell of North Shields will preach morning and afternoon, and in the evening the Rev. R. D. Maud of New Mills, Derby-

shire. On Thursday evening, May 5th, at 7 30, a sermon by the Rev. S. S. Barton of Manchester. A collection at each service on behalf of the building funds. On Saturday, May 7th, a tea party and public meeting will be held. Mr. Richard Lord in the chair. The following are expected to be present and take part in the meeting: Revs. Joseph Townend, Andrew Crombie, and J. C. McCappin, Mr. John Baron of Burnley, Mr. Francis Clegg of Manchester, Mr. Robert Standring, John Petrie, Esq., and Thomas Watson, Esq. Tea on the tables at 4 o'clock. Tickets 9d. each, to be had at the door.

In the July number of the "U.M.F.C. Magazine" for 1870 appear the following notes:—

"Rochdale Circuit. Opening of a new Chapel at Lowerfold.—On Sunday, 24th April, our new Chapel (the corner stone of which was laid in June last year) was opened for Divine service by the Rev. Joseph Townend, who founded his discourse on Isaiah vi., 1-7, and who, it may be remarked, opened the present schoolroom in the year 1846. The following ministers also took part in the opening services: Rev. S. Chapman (Baptist), Rev. S. Sellers of Cross Hills, near Leeds, Rev. J. S. Rendell of North Shields, Rev. R. D. Maud of New Mills, and Rev. S. S. Barton of Manchester.

"The Chapel is Italian in its style of architecture and will hold about 500 worshippers. The interior has a very neat appearance, with open pews of a novel construction, and is warmed by hot air. It has been constructed more with a view to comfort and durability than elaborate decoration. Mr. Thomas Shore of Healey contracted for the building, and has done the work in an exceedingly creditable manner, under the direction of Mr. Macdougall, architect, Rochdale.

"On Saturday, 7th May, a tea and public meeting was held. After the usual devotional exercises, conducted by the Rev. E. Bailey, Mr. R. Lord took the chair.

"In the course of a few opening remarks he referred to the long number of years during which the friends of Lowerfold had looked forward to such a day as that, when the new Chapel should be completed and opened. The want

of such a building had been very much felt, for it was not a pleasant thing when urging a person to come to Chapel, to be met with the retort, 'You have no place to put me if I do come.' He rejoiced that the excuse would not hold good now, and he hoped that many would avail themselves of the opportunity presented them for worshipping in God's House, and that the Church might long be a blessing to the neighbourhood.

"He then called on the Secretary (Mr. William Lord) to read the report of the Chapel Building Committee, from which the following is an extract: 'In the year 1835 the late Mr. R. Clegg and a few others, who had a desire to leave the world better than they found it, established a school in this village. In 1846 the adjoining school was erected at a cost (with vestry accommodation since added) of about £640. That building has been free from debt several years. For a number of years the teachers have felt the want of Chapel accommodation in connection with the Sabbath School, and in the year 1863 they decided to take preliminary steps with a view to School enlargement or Chapel building. Many difficulties have been met and overcome during that period of near seven years and to-night we rejoice to meet you within the walls of this Chapel. Its cost is about £1,500, but with cost of land adjoining, legal expenses, deeds, fencing, etc., etc., the gross amount expended will be about £1,650. Towards this sum £1,033 has been raised by subscriptions and various other ways, amongst teachers and scholars; £314 has been subscribed by friends in the neighbourhood, town, and at a distance; and the opening services realised £73 6s. 5d.; showing a total of about £1,420; and leaving us £230 short of commencing free from debt.'

"Mr. John Baron of Burnley, and Mr. Francis Clegg of Manchester, two old teachers, having addressed the meeting, Mr. John Petrie, senior, was called upon to speak. After expressing his pleasure at being with them at that their time of rejoicing, he touched upon his connection with the many Methodist Chapels that had been erected in the neighbourhood of Rochdale since he came into the town. He said he had been surprised at the magnitude of the work which had been going on in the Circuit within the last 35 years, for he found that during that period no less than £40,000 had been laid out in chapels, and of this he supposed not

more than £10,000 was owing at that time. Persons need only look round at the chapels that had lately been erected at Smithy Lane Side, Littleborough, and Lowerfold to see how the cause of Methodism was flourishing, and what a stimulus was being given to the cause of Christ generally.

"The Rev. A. Crombie delivered an energetic and encouraging speech, and was followed by the Rev. Joseph Townend, who said he was heartily glad to meet his Lowerfold friends under such auspicious circumstances. He could assure them that he had always felt a peculiar interest in their village, and that when on the other side of the Globe there was no place which was associated in his mind with more pleasing memories than Lowerfold. Having reminded those present of the time, not very far past, when the only place where Christian people in that village could meet together for worship was a cottage on the other side of the road, the speaker begged them not to relax their efforts, but press on, hoping that 35 years hence the religious feeling in the neighbourhood might bear as great a contrast to what it now was, as it in the present time did to the period to which he had been referring.

"Mr. Thomas Watson having addressed a few earnest words to his audience on their duties as Christians, Mr. Thomas Smith briefly spoke, after which the meeting closed with the singing of the Doxology.

"JOHN MILLS."

1870, August 7.—Sunday School sermons preached by the Rev. Richard Chew, and address given in the morning by Mr. John Ashworth, author of "Strange Tales."

1870, November 1.—Opening of the Shawforth branch railway.

1870, November 13.—Fire occurred this (Sunday) morning at five o'clock which partially destroyed both vestries and unroofed a considerable portion of the school on the east side, and a portion of the school records were destroyed belonging to its early years. The fire was extinguished by means of hand pumps kept at Messrs. John Leach and Son's mill at Harridge, and though the fire engines came on the scene of disaster from the Rochdale Fire Engine Station they were not brought into play. The damage was estimated at £100. It appears the fire originated in the overheating of a stove.

1870, December 5.—Richard Lord died. He was one of the founders of this School and Church and one of its most prominent and useful workers. Indeed, Lowerfold owes much to him for his unwearied and constant efforts. His memory has been held in great respect for many years now by those who remain and were acquainted with him and the history of the School in its early years. He was also a liberal supporter to the place in a financial sense, having helped very largely by his generosity to erect the Chapel and other premises. He laboured in various offices, viz., as superintendent, choirmaster, teacher, trustee, etc. At his death a request was sent to the Home Secretary that his body might be interred in front of the Chapel, near the place he so dearly loved, and it was accordingly complied with. The monument bears the following inscription:—

> This tablet is erected to the memory of Richard Lord, Middle Healey, who departed this life at Leamington, December 5th, 1870, in the 55th year of his age, in full assurance of faith in Christ and of the life to come. "Because he delivered the poor that cried and the fatherless and him that had none to help him, the blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon him and he caused the widow's heart to sing for joy."—Job xxix., 12-13.

Some years after this Mr. John Ormerod, desirous of honouring him along with Francis Clegg, another co-worker in the School, placed a picture of each of these gentlemen on the wall of the schoolroom, where they still remain.

The following appears in the "U.M.F.C. Magazine" for June, 1871:—

MEMOIR OF MR. RICHARD LORD OF HEALEY, ROCHDALE, by Mr. Francis Clegg.

"Our departed brother was born in the year 1816 at a small village called Cutgate, near to what used to be the race ground, some two miles from Rochdale. His parents were dependent on their labour for the support of a numerous family. Those were trying and exciting times to the working classes of this district. Foolish legislation, long continued war with its consequent crushing taxation, and bad trade made it an anxious and difficult task to provide for a family. The power loom, too, was just being introduced

into the district. Ignorance of political economy led the working classes to believe that they were thus being deprived of the very means of earning a subsistence. Discontent, trade strikes, sometimes attended with violence, agitation for political rights on the part of the people, and violent means employed by an unpopular and oppressive Government to suppress the same, were the order of the day during our friend's childhood and youth. He had small educational advantages: his native village had no Sunday school, nor any place of public worship. Children at that time in these districts were set to work at a very early age, and from 13 to 14 hours was the measure of their daily toil. He had parents religiously inclined and had the heritage of a good example. They taught him habits of industry and sent him regularly to the Congregational Sunday School at Bamford, a neighbouring village.

"With such surroundings and such limited advantages, our friend acquired such a degree of general information as to enable him to pass with credit in any society, to conduct advantageously a rather extensive business, to fulfil very satisfactorily the offices of guardian to the poor and of town councillor in the Rochdale Corporation, and such as to make him a most efficient and successful Sunday school teacher. I think it is Carlyle who has said, 'Instead of saying that man is the creature of circumstances it would be nearer the mark to say that man is the architect of circumstances. From the same material one man builds palaces, another hovels, one warehouses, another villas; bricks and mortar are mortar and bricks until the architect can make them something else.' Thus it is in the same family, in the same circumstances, one man rears a stately edifice, while his brother, vacillating and incompetent, lives for ever amid ruins; the block of granite which was an obstacle in the pathway of the weak becomes a stepping-stone in the pathway of the strong.

"For twenty-three years of the first part of his life Mr. Lord was employed in the warehouse of Messrs. Kelsall and Bartlemore, very wealthy flannel merchants at Rochdale; and it is creditable to the character of our departed friend that after he had left their service and commenced in a small way of business on his own account, and had to some extent entered into competition with them, that the late Mr. Kelsall,

the principal in the firm, should have taken frequent opportunities of showing in a very decided and public manner his sincere regard for Mr. Lord and the high esteem in which he held him.

"Our late friend, as I have intimated, was not educated in a Methodist Sunday school, but when quite a young man he began to labour in the Wesleyan Association Sunday School at Lowerfold, soon after its formation, when the Sunday School and Chapel were comprised in the chambers of a small cottage. He joined our Church at Lowerfold and continued a teacher and a member to the day of his death, while nearly all those who were his fellow labourers in the early years of the institution have been long removed by death to a better world, or by business to other spheres of labour. He, with his fellow labourers, has not laboured in vain. I know of no school that, taking all things into account, has such a proportion of palpable, tangible fruit to show as the one in this small and obscure village.

"Knowing intimately the condition of the village up to 1835, when the School commenced, and looking at its condition now, I cannot but exclaim, 'What hath God wrought,' and my mind is filled with adoring gratitude to the Great Author of all our good; and to this our dear friend very largely contributed. As a Sunday school teacher he was more remarkable for great tact than for great talents. He generally taught the young men's class, and had a wonderful faculty of rallying the young men of the village about him and by imperceptible degrees attaching them to the Sunday School and ultimately many of them to the Church. If one may speculate as to the secret of his success in this respect, I believe his getting the confidence of the young men was a cardinal point. He was on the most familiar and easy terms with them; there was not that gulf between him and his scholars that is too often the case; they could say all that was in their minds to him. One has seen what a mighty influence a single boy may obtain over his companions when he is believed by them to be a real friend and is in every way their superior. It was this kind of influence that our friend secured over his young men. It did not so much resemble the victor leading the vanquished as the eastern shepherd leading his sheep. He spoke with them at their homes. He manifested an interest in their

temporal welfare and in very many instances procured situations for boys, thus improving their condition. He was careful to visit them in sickness, and when a boy has not had the means of obtaining a change of clothing and has been kept from school because he had only his week-day suit in which he attended to his daily calling. I have known our departed brother many years ago, when he was not able to provide a change for the boy out of his own purse, quietly go among some of our well-to-do friends and obtain what was required. I have known him, too, many years ago, when he was only a working man and his income very limited indeed, and there has been some scholar connected with the school whose health was so reduced that their only chance of recovery, humanly speaking, was in a change of air, perhaps to the seaside, and when the parents have been too poor to afford the means to this end, our late brother, without any co-operation on the part of fellow teachers, has in a manner known only to himself quietly obtained the necessary funds. There are those living who have now attained to middle life and have made a good position in the world, who, in my opinion, owe their very lives to such exertions on the part of our departed brother and are living monuments of his considerate and disinterested kindness.

"A great writer has said, 'I would rather, when I am laid in the grave, that some one in his manhood should stand over me and say, "There is one who was a real friend to me and privately warned me of the dangers of the young, no one knew it, but he aided me in time of need; I owe what I am to him," or would rather have some widow with choking utterance telling her children "there is your friend and mine; he visited me in my affliction and found you, my son, an employer, and you, my daughter, a happy home in a virtuous family." I would rather that such persons should stand at my grave than to have erected over it the most beautiful sculptured monument of Parian or Italian marble; the heart's broken utterance of reflections of past kindness and the tears of grateful memory shed upon the grave are more valuable in my estimation than the most costly cenotaph ever reared. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, "to visit the fatherless and widow in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." About twenty years ago Mr. Lord was able to

commence business in a small way as a flannel merchant. By rigid economy and most diligent attention he, under God's blessing, was enabled to establish a considerable business and to place himself in what is sometimes called well-to-do circumstances; and here I would remark that this transition is very often attended with danger. In my connection with the Church for some 36 years past I have sometimes seen a young man, a working man, who has been an earnest and diligent worker in the Church and Sabbath Schools; he has commenced in business and has been very successful in money making. He has begun to wane in his attendance at the social means of grace. Next he has found what he considers satisfactory reasons for absenting himself frequently from his duties at the Sunday School. His business continues to prosper, and he removes to a larger house further away from his accustomed sphere of labour, he discovers that it will not pay for him to take an active part in either the School or the Church, his whole energies of body and soul must be concentrated on his business, and he finally settles down to be simply a seat holder, attending public worship once on the Sabbath, everything being favourable, and as the Apostle describes it, 'minding only earthly things.' Oh! how loudly such a man proclaims his want of faith in those unseen realities which are spiritual and eternal, and in which he professes a belief. It seems to me that except where it is a necessity in order to provide things honestly in the sight of all men, or to provide for those dependent on him, that a Christian man who has command of his own time has no right to be so absorbed in business as to be unable to take his fair share of duty in the Church. God has claims upon him, and in the name of all the interests involved I venture to ask if all those claims are to be silenced and stand in abeyance that he may amass a fortune or live in selfish ease and indulgence? and what a return to make for the degree of prosperity that a kind Providence has awarded him! But the subject of this memoir did not allow his improved circumstances to diminish the deep interest he had long taken in the prosperity of the Church and School. As long as health permitted he found his highest happiness in the regular discharge of his school duties.

"In 1846 the friends at Lowerfold were enabled to erect a nice, commodious Sunday School, capable of holding 300

scholars, and which cost £600. It contained about a dozen pews. Our friend continued to worship, though the pulpit was mainly supplied by the local brethren. In 1869, on a lovely summer's day, our departed friend, in the presence of a large assembly, laid the foundation stone of a new Chapel adjoining the Sunday School. He was then in feeble health. He addressed the assembly at some length with much feeling, reviewing the struggles and the triumphs of the past. Though a Radical in politics and a warm friend of Free Methodism, he was on most friendly terms with the village rector, and in his remarks at the stone laying referred to him in most commendatory terms. His speech on this occasion was published in the local papers. The new Chapel has cost upwards of £1,600; more than £800 of that sum was given by our brother and his two sons. His habits and tastes were so simple and inexpensive that he was enabled to give liberally, and did so more widely than was known even to his most intimate friends. He was spared, however, to see the completion of the new Chapel, in which he had taken so lively an interest, and took part in the opening services. About October last he went to Leamington, intending to spend the winter there, but he rapidly grew weaker, and after a long and tedious illness, which he bore with exemplary patience and Christian resignation, died at Leamington December 5th, 1870.

"He was sustained throughout his illness by the consolations of that religion which he had so long enjoyed, and in his last moments his faith in the Saviour was unwavering. By his own request he was interred at the new Chapel; and though the day was very damp and the cold severe, about 200 persons attended the funeral—teachers, scholars, friends, and neighbours—to testify their respect for his memory.

"'Far more valued is the vine that bends beneath its swelling clusters than the dark and joyless ivy round the cloister's wall wreathing its barren arms.' The writer was present, and as he saw—while the Rev. Joseph Townend was conducting the funeral service—numbers of young people expressing the sense of their loss by their tears, he was forcibly reminded of the scene at the death of Dorcas as detailed in the Acts of the Apostles, where we are told how the garments she had made for the poor were exhibited as proofs of her piety. So to my mind these young people,

who, many of them, through our brother's labour and influence, had been gathered into the Church, were even more striking and valuable tokens and mementoes of our brother's piety and usefulness. What a mystery about the Providence which calls from his labours, at 55 years of age, one who by the large experience he had acquired, and by the high esteem in which he was held, was so eminently fitted to render efficient service to society; his mind, too—as we have reason to know—full of noble and yet unfulfilled purposes. But, though our brother was not old in years, yet he had done much and varied service, and the Master said, 'It is enough, enter into thy rest.'

'Virtue, not rolling suns, the mind matures
The man of wisdom is the man of years.'

This memoir is already far more lengthy than was intended. I will make no application of it beyond what is supplied in the striking words of Carlyle: 'Think of living; Thy life, wert thou the piltfullest of all the sons of earth, is no idle dream, but a solemn reality. It is thy own; it is all thou hast to front eternity with. Work, then, even as he has done, like a star, unhasting yet unresting.'"

1871, May 30.—Lowerfold Chapel registered for the solemnization of marriages.

1871, June 3.—On this day the first marriage in this Chapel took place, and a Bible was "presented to Joseph and Elizabeth Mills on the occasion of their marriage, 3rd June, 1871, by the teachers of Lowerfold Sunday School, being the first marriage solemnised in the new Chapel." Also a hymn book was presented by the members of the Society to the happy couple, with a suitable inscription signed by William Lord, Steward, on the same date.

1871, November 5.—Collection in the Chapel for the suffering poor in the late terrible fire in Chicago, United States.

1872, July 25.—Extension of the Municipal Borough of Rochdale, and now including the village of Lowerfold.

1873, March 1.—Lowerfold Liberal Association was permitted the use of the School for a tea meeting on this date.

1873, July 30.—Seventeenth Annual Assembly of the United Methodist Free Churches held in Baillie-street Chapel.

1873, November 13.—Death of the Rev. James Molineux, aged 82 years. The first paid minister belonging to the Wesleyan Methodist Association, Rochdale Circuit, and the author of a work on botany. He was President of the Annual Assembly held in Rochdale in 1838. The Rev. M. Baxter, in "Memorials of Free Methodism," describing him, says: "The President was a well-built man, with a body of divinity in his head—a flower garden in his eye and his memory—a large drag net—filled with all the spoils of time. Having next to no imagination, he lived much more in the past than in the future." Previous to his death he had for many years taken appointments at Lowerfold as a preacher on the Supernumerary List.

1874, January 30.—Alfred Barker tendered his resignation as a teacher on account of his going to Borough Road Training College, London.

1874, June 18.—The Rev. George Turner preached in Healey Hall Bottoms.

1874.—Circular read to the Lowerfold Society requesting them to consider the propriety of the U.M.F.C. Rochdale Circuit being divided.

1875. February 23.—Eli Ashworth died, aged 46 years. He became a scholar in 1863 and was appointed a teacher in December, 1865. From this time he took great interest in the School, often serving on committees, and spent a deal of time and labour on the premises to keep the buildings in proper condition.

1875, March 14.—Mr. John Butterworth, teacher of the second Bible class males and choirmaster for some years, tendered his resignation on account of his removal to Manchester. He was also Registration Agent for the Rochdale Liberal Association.

1875, April 4.—Thomas Smith tendered his resignation as Superintendent on account of his removal to Littleborough. He was a leader in the Church as well as Sunday School Superintendent, and a man of steady and constant effort in the cause of God. So regular and punctual was he in his attendance to his Sabbath duties at the Sunday School

that the people in the houses which he passed along the road to the school would set their clocks, noting the time of day by his passing their door. When he was about to leave the School on account of the distance from home, having gone to reside at Littleborough, he was in the village one day and called upon one of the elder scholars close to the School and requested her to open the School door and go with him into the Chapel that he might see the dear hallowed place again. He said, "I love this place. The happiest moments of my life have been spent here." He pulled off his hat and stood for a time in reverent and devout silence. Presently he began to repeat the Lord's Prayer, slowly and devoutly, while the tears rolled down his face. What blessed memories those must have been to the aged pilgrim. His companion could not restrain her tears, and both wept while they thus worshipped God in that small congregation. As a class leader he was always there to the minute. The vestry door opening upon the street, he would throw wide open, and though there might be no members present, he would begin the service as though the room was full of people by giving out the hymn in a strong voice:

"Come let us anew
Our journey pursue,
Roll round with the year,
And never stand still,
Till the Master appear."

Then he would begin to sing heartily by himself. Afterwards he would engage solemnly in humble prayer. Being spiritually minded, his heart was in his work and he delighted in the service of the sanctuary. He died in August, 1877, at Littleborough, aged 77 years, and his body was interred in the Rochdale Cemetery.

1875, November 23.—Healey Cotton Mill, Whitworth Road, destroyed by fire.

1876, March 12.—Mary Barker resigned as a teacher, having to leave home for the training college as a schoolmistress.

1876, March 30.—Mrs. Alice Maxim, a member of the choir for seven years, under the leadership of Mr. Samuel Lord, presented by the choir with a rocking chair on the occasion of her marriage at Lowerfold to Mr. Alfred Maxim.

1876, July 9.—The School joined the procession at Whitworth on the occasion of the corner stone laying of the United Methodist Free Church at that place.

1876, April 30.—Sunday school anniversary sermons preached in the morning and evening by the Rev. Robert Berry of Hallfold. In the afternoon an address was given to the scholars by the Rev. T. B. Saul. Collections and donations amounted to the handsome sum of £73 7s. 6d.

1876, August.—Rochdale Circuit divided into three, viz., Baillie-street, Castlemere, and Littleborough. Before the division the following places were included in the Circuit:—Baillie-street, Castlemere, Bagslate, Lowerplace, Whitworth, Smallbridge, Littleborough, Lowerfold, Greenhill, Spotland, Syke, Watergrove, Belfield, Brimrod, Milnrow, Spotland Workhouse, Wardleworth Workhouse, Hamer, Smithy Lane Side, Red Lumb, Castleton, Shawclough, and Mitchell-street.

1876, August.—The Rev. E. Hall came into the Circuit, and in June, 1877, to reside at Thornbank, Shawclough.

1876, September 17.—Collection in the Chapel for Bulgarian and Servian sufferers, £2 13s. 0d.

1876, September 20.—Discovery of a "charm" against evil spirits in a box concealed in the rafters of a shippon at Healey. A remnant of a past superstition.

1876, November 11.—Alfred Butterworth, a Superintendent of the School, departed this life, aged 35 years. He first became a scholar on the 5th October, 1845. About two years after he left and went to the School at Birches, but was re-admitted to Lowerfold School on July 4th, 1858. After serving in the capacity of a teacher for nearly seven years he was appointed on the 8th March, 1868, as Sunday School Superintendent, which office he filled to the time of his death. For 18 years he had been a consistent and useful member of the Church. His last sickness was short and severe. Fourteen days before his death he was in London. While there he had an attack of bronchitis which so shortly ended his earthly career. He expressed his faith and hope in the language of Job: "I know that my Redeemer liveth." The teachers' meeting forwarded a resolution of sympathy to his widow in her bereavement.

1876, December 6.—Brother John Reeve appointed Steward and Brother John W. Bentley Assistant Steward.

1876, December 10.—Mr. Samuel Lord resigned his position as choirmaster on account of his numerous duties, and Mr. James Lord was appointed his successor.

1876, December 31.—Brother George Fielden appointed leader of the Wednesday night class.

1877, March 8.—A lecture given in the School by the Rev. John Guttridge.

1877, May 16.—Mary Ann Ingham died, aged 49 years. A member in Sister Butterworth's class.

1877, July 19.—The Society rented and furnished a house at Thornbank for the use of the minister in this neighbourhood, they to pay all rates and taxes.

1877, October 9.—Brother John Whitehead died, aged 67 years. A former and highly-respected Superintendent of the Sunday School.

1877, December 6.—Society meeting held. The Rev. T. J. Dent in the chair. Brother William Lord was appointed Steward of the Chapel for 1878.

1878, March 3.—The death of Brother Joseph Barker took place at Bonny in West Africa. Became a scholar on June 22nd, 1856. Had been a scholar for twenty years. Left England in November, 1877. He was taken ill at New Calabar and died of fever and congestion of the brain. He is reported to have said to a companion, "What a comfort to feel ready when the call comes."

1878, June 18.—The Bible in the pulpit of the Chapel bears the following inscription: "Presented to Lowerfold Sunday School by James Garlick previous to his departure for Australia, 18th June, 1878."

1878, July 24.—Miss Mary Butterworth, a native of this village, died in her 43rd year. She was admitted as a scholar into the School at the age of four years, and when twenty years old assisted in teaching the alphabet class, after which she became a recognised teacher until December 9th, 1860. At this time she resigned on account of failing health. Two years after, her health having improved, she again commenced teaching in the Sunday School and continued such until the time of her death. She was a very useful and earnest class leader in the Church as well as a very devoted worker in the School, and remarkable for earnest prayer

and Christian affection. She left a noble example of industry in Christian labour and of attachment to the place where she had received so many blessings. A little over two years ago her brother, Alfred Butterworth, who was the Superintendent of the School, had gone home to heaven, and now she was called to join him in the realms of the blest.

1878, August 28.—Thomas Shore, contractor, Healey, died, aged 37 years, and left a widow, four sons, and one daughter. He became a scholar in this School in February, 1859, and a teacher about 1860. He was for 19 years a teacher and a true and faithful servant of the Church and School. In business a builder, he contracted for the erection of the Lowerfold Chapel in 1869, and voluntarily promised the Trustees to give to the Building Fund any profit that might be made out of the contract in building the Chapel. At the conclusion of the work he was faithful to his promise and subscribed £53 to the Building Fund. This sum the trustees did not feel it right to accept from so young a man struggling in business as he was at that time, but so persistent was he in adhering to his promise that at length they relented, accepting the amount from him in the spirit in which it was given, and to show their appreciation of his work he was presented on the 26th December, 1870, with a beautiful timepiece, bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. Thomas Shore, builder, Healey, by the Lowerfold Chapel Building Committee as a token of esteem and satisfaction at the creditable manner in which he has executed his contract. Lowerfold, 26th December, 1870." From this time he succeeded beyond his expectations in business. Every contract he made prospered. He was highly regarded in business circles and engaged for much important building work in the district, notably the Healey Mill, the Broadley bridges over the river and the railway, and also assisted at the Healey Viaduct for the railway, etc., etc.

1878, August.—Chapel re-opened the first Sunday in the month after decoration. Preacher, the Rev. T. J. Dent.

1878, September 10.—The Rev. W. G. Heritage introduced to the Society, having been appointed leader here in place of the Rev. T. J. Dent, removed to Helston.

1879, August 25.—Special teachers' meeting. Resolved "That an address, with an illuminated heading, be presented to our fellow labourer and co-worker, Mr. Benjamin Renshaw,

on the occasion of his removal to Australia. Also that a similar one be presented to our fellow teacher, Miss Margaret Pickup on the occasion of her marriage and removal out of the neighbourhood." The address to Miss Margaret Pickup, now Mrs. Pinnington of Rawtenstall, reads as follows:—

> To Miss Margaret Pickup.—We, the undersigned, on behalf of the teachers of Lowerfold Sunday School, near Rochdale, Lancashire, gladly bear our testimony to our co-worker on the occasion of her removal from amongst us.
>
> We have known her for fourteen years, during which period she has been an attentive scholar and for some years an earnest teacher in this Sunday School, and has ever taken a lively interest in its prosperity and wellbeing.
>
> In the order of Divine Providence she is about to enter the married life. Our prayer is that she may ever have the blessing of the Most High resting upon her, and that her union and future home may ever be distinguished by happiness, peace, and prosperity.
>
> Signed, on behalf of the teachers,
>
> THOMAS SMITH,
ALFRED BUTTERWORTH, } Superintendents.
>
> JOHN MILLS, Secretary.
>
> WILLIAM LORD, Society Steward.
>
> 2nd October, 1870.

Mr. Benjamin Renshaw taught the third class females, with David Pickup as his colleague, and was on the point of emigrating to Australia at this time. A photograph of the class was taken in the garden of Mr. Charles Renshaw's country house at Syke, in order that he might see them all together in his prospective home, and others were sold to the scholars. Mrs. Pinnington possesses one of these at the present time. In writing 33 years after to a friend Mrs. Pinnington says:—

"I have always felt that the love, order, and discipline of Lowerfold Sunday School cannot fail to have exercised a most beneficial influence on the lives of all those who have

been its happy recipients. From my own experience of Sunday schools, Lowerfold stands head and shoulders above any other, and the words fervently uttered by some of the old teachers, yea! and the teachers themselves start into life suddenly and still leave a blessing and a benediction behind. As happened in our Chapel (at Rawtenstall) to-night. A short-metre tune was started, one of dear Mr. Standring's favourites, and while this was given forth by the organ I was back in my girlhood days, again it was our Sunday evening prayer meeting, and Mr. Standring came forward, giving out the dear old hymn, 'Come ye that love the Lord.' I seemed to see him quite plainly with his hands clasped and held down in front of him, and his face turned upwards with such a look of heaven in its expression as it would be hard to find nowadays. I can tell you that one backward glance filled my heart so full that I could not take much part in the real present singing. As I write, tears of thankfulness and joy roll down my face that ever it was my privilege to be connected with such men and such a School. May God continue to bless the place with such men and women as I remember those to have been."

1879, November 1.—Oliver Ormerod, a Trustee of this Chapel, died, aged 68. Author in the Lancashire dialect of a tract, entitled "O Ful, Tru un Pertikler Okeawnt o' bwoth wot au seed un wot au yerd wi gooin' to th' Greyt Eggshibishun e Lundun."

1880.—During the early part of the year Baillie-street Church employed the services of Mr. Sampson, the evangelist, with moderate results.

1880, July 3.—Foundation stone laid of Hollows Chapel, Shawclough, by Thomas Watson, Esq., J.P.

1880, July 20, 22, 24, and 25.—Celebration of the Centenary of Sunday Schools in Rochdale and District.

1880, September 14.—Mr. William Lord appointed Steward of this Chapel.

1881, February 18.—Mr. Samuel Lord, the son of Mr. Richard Lord, one of the founders of this School, resigned his position as a teacher. The teachers' meeting passed a resolution thanking him for his long and valuable services in the School. He had been connected with it from childhood, and was an earnest worker, taking a prominent part

in various ways and manifesting much ability. He was noted for his regularity and attention to duty both as a teacher and as leader of the choir. He also for some years played the harmonium.

1881, February 23.—Hollows Chapel, Shawclough, the gift of Thomas Watson, Esq., opened this day.

Statement made by Mr. William Lord, Chapel Steward, in the U.M.F.C. Special Chapel Schedule for 1881, issued by order of the Annual Assembly, respecting Lowerfold Chapel, etc., Baillie-street Circuit, Rochdale:—

QUESTIONS.

I. Chapel.

1. When was it built?—1869.
2. What has been the total cost?—£1,750 first cost, and about £400 since for purchase of land, fencing, etc.
3. What is the present debt?—£583.
4. How many persons will it seat?—430.
5. Actual attendance on Sunday, 10th April, 1881?—Afternoon 209, evening 42, total 251.
6. Number of sittings let?—131.
7. Tenure?—Freehold.
8. Is it settled on trust?—Yes.
9. On what deed is it settled?—Model deed.
10. Who holds the deeds?—The Circuit.
11. Is it certified as a place of worship belonging to the U.M.F.C.?—Yes.
12. Is it licensed for marriages?—Yes.
13. What is the annual income?—£60.
14. What is the annual expenditure?—£49.

II. School.

1. Is the School under the Chapel or over it, at its end or side, or is it a separate building?—A separate building.
2. When was it built?—1846.
3. What did it cost?—£650.
4. What is the present debt?—Out of debt.
5. Tenure?—Freehold.
6. Is it settled on trust?—Yes.
7. On what deed is it settled?—Model deed.
8. Who holds the deeds?—The Circuit.

9. How many scholars will it accommodate?—300.
10. Is it used as a denominational day school?—No.

III. Harmonium.

1. What was the cost of the instrument?—£22.
2. What is the debt on it?—None.
3. Is it the property of the Trustees?—Yes.

(Signed) WILLIAM LORD.

Dated 11th April, 1881.

1881, July 1.—This Sunday morning Mr. John Ormerod presented a Bible on behalf of the teachers to Mr. David Pickup, with the following inscription:—

Lowerfold,
Rochdale,
England, July 10th, 1881.

Presented to Mr. David Pickup by the teachers of Lowerfold Sunday School on the occasion of his leaving England for America. Being a token of respect and esteem, as a well-conducted scholar and efficient and faithful teacher and Superintendent for the period of 31 years.

Signed on behalf of the teachers,

JOHN ORMEROD.
ROBERT STANDRING.
GEORGE FIELDING.
EDMUND ASHWORTH.
JOHN MILLS.

1881, December 1.—Opening of extended new railway line from Facit to Bacup.

1882, January 3.—The Steward, Mr. William Lord, reported as follows to Circuit meeting:—"The year 1881 prosperous. During the quarter we have had some gracious times of blessing such as have not occurred previously in our history. It has been a season of awakening and also of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Very many have sought the Saviour and professed to find peace." In writing to a friend (Mr. James Lord) of these times he says: "I am gladdened to hear of so large an attendance and of the further number of converts—they make up 26. The lines sent, 'Sowing the seed,' are very appropriate and make the tear drops start. The cloud seems to have lifted at Lowerfold and a gracious influence taken its place. I pray that

the sunshine of Divine favour may continue in our midst and that many more may become the saved of the Lord."

1882, February 12.—It was resolved by a teachers' meeting to use, in addition to the hymn book already in use, a small book of 50 hymns composed specially for our School by Mr. Robert Standring, he having kindly presented each scholar with a copy. An introduction to the hymn book is printed as follows:—

> Dear Friends,—These hymns were composed for Lowerfold School, and the author prays that they may be a blessing to it when he is no more.
>
> November 16th, 1881.

1882, March 25.—John Thomas Wilson, son of Henry Wilson of this village, died somewhat suddenly of a very severe and contagious disease. He was admitted a scholar June 12th, 1862, and had been a teacher in the School for nearly six years. He was 23 years of age, and promised fair for making a very useful man. He had made his peace with God, but regretted that he had not joined himself more closely to the Church. He was afraid that through his conduct he had kept others away, and left this as a message to his acquaintances to induce them to work more zealously in the Church and Sunday School.

1882, June 23.—Messrs. Jacob Tweedale and Sons, woollen manufacturers, Healey, suspended payment; liabilities £60,000; 200 hands were thrown out of employment.

1883, July 23.—Death of Francis Clegg of Manchester, at one time a teacher, Superintendent, and Trustee, etc., of this place and was one of the best supporters of the work at Lowerfold during its early years. After his removal to Manchester he continued to have warm and strong attachment to the cause here, often rendering very practical assistance in a variety of ways. After his decease Mr. John Ormerod honoured him by presenting as a memorial the picture of him to the teachers and which now hangs in the schoolroom. The U.M.F.C. Magazine for 1884 contains his memoir. His father, Robert Clegg, was one of the founders of this place of worship, and it was to him Mr. Richard Lord referred so praiseworthily in his address when the corner stone of the Chapel was laid.

1884, March 15.—At the teachers' yearly meeting it was resolved "That the best thanks of the teachers be sent to Mr. John Mills, expressing pleasure that he has been with

us for such a very long time, viz., from infancy, and having faithfully fulfilled the post of School Secretary for several years and that of teacher for many years, we regret his removal and pray that he may be spared to a good old age in peace and love."

1884, March 15.—Mr. John Leach reported to the teachers' yearly meeting that he had in his possession a bass violin that had done good service and that was paid for originally out of the proceeds of Christmas singing. It was resolved "That the same be given to our old friend, John Leach, gratis," whereupon he said he would give £1 to some of the funds of our premises.

1885, September 14.—Thomas Tweedale having removed out of the neighbourhood, and having sent in his resignation as Superintendent, it was resolved "That it be accepted, and that we tender to him our most sincere and heartfelt thanks for his long and faithful services, and for the many happy hours we have spent in his company. We also pray that wherever his lot may be cast he may live a happy and useful life."

1886, April 14.—On this date an illuminated address was presented to Mr. Robert Standring by the School on the occasion of his removal to Southport, as follows:—

> United Methodist Free Church Sunday School, Lowerfold, Rochdale.—Presented by the teachers and scholars of the above School to Mr. Robert Standring of 71, Yorkshire-street, Rochdale, on the occasion of his removal to Southport, as a grateful token of esteem for long and faithful service as Sunday school teacher and Superintendent during 49 years, and with the prayer that our Heavenly Father may comfort, sustain, and abundantly bless him throughout the short pilgrimage of life that still remains.
>
> EDMUND ASHWORTH, JAMES MILLS, } Superintendents.
> THOMAS HENRY ASHWORTH, Secretary.
> JOSEPH MILLS, Treasurer.
> BENJAMIN LORD, Librarian.
> ALFRED MAXIM, Visitor.
> WILLIAM LORD, JOHN FENTON, DAVID ASHWORTH, JOHN ORMEROD, WILLIAM MILLS, } Committee.

1887, March 10.—Mr. Robert Standring, boot and shoemaker, died at Southport, where he had gone to reside after retiring from business in Yorkshire-street, Rochdale. Previous to leaving Rochdale he was a very active local preacher in the Circuit as well as a constant worker at Lowerfold. He was a gentleman of very temperate and industrious habits, very studious and intelligent, physically active, possessing a healthy constitution, and devoted much of his leisure and of his talents to Christian work. He was the author of a small pamphlet, entitled "Sunday Schools among the Mountains"; "The Child's History of England in verse"; "The Wickedness of Kings," a poem; "The Fairies of Healey Dell," a poem," and a small collection of Sunday school hymns. He first became connected with Lowerfold School while it was held in the cottage and when he was quite a young man. Some of his experience is related in the tract written by him, "Sunday Schools among the Mountains," an extract from which is contained in the earlier part of this book. The School Secretary, in his report says: "We feel we cannot allow this occasion to pass without due reference to the death of an old teacher and Superintendent, the late Mr. Robert Standring, who, with his family, removed to Southport in April of last year and died there after a few weeks' sickness on the 10th March, 1887, aged 70 years. He was a teacher and office-bearer (previous to his removal to Southport) for upwards of 47 years and was one of the early workers in the old School over the way. He was a Trustee for the premises, both School and Chapel, and for many years was a class leader. He also took an interest in the choir, especially so in its early formation. During his illness he was often repeating a favourite hymn of his:—

'Leader of faithful souls and
Guide of all that travel to the skies.'

Not long before his death he wished the members of his family to come to his bedside and very lovingly and affectionately bade them all good-bye. It is a joy to know that he died well, and better still that he lived well. His motto was, 'A sinner saved,' and this motto is to be placed over his grave. He leaves a widow and one married son, Mr. John Standring, to whom the teachers forwarded words of sympathy in their sad bereavement; also a floral token to be laid upon our dear friend's coffin.

1886, December 18.—Sister Maria Bentley died trusting in Jesus, aged 39 years.

1886, December 21.—A lecture on "Hygiene" was given in the schoolroom by Mr. John Wild of Smallbridge.

1887, January 23.—Resolved at a special teachers' meeting "That Brother Thomas Henry Ashworth's resignation be accepted, he having been called to live at Fish Ponds, near Bristol; and that the best thanks of the teachers be given to him for the valuable services which he has rendered to the School for many years as a teacher and Sunday School Secretary; and pray that in the future he may have much success in this life, and in the life to come life everlasting."

1887, May.—William E. Harling, having resigned as a teacher in the School on account of his leaving this country for America, was presented by the teachers with an Oxford pocket Bible.

1887, December 10.—James Mills, Superintendent of the School, died on this date, aged 53 years. He was one of four brothers who have been active workers in this Sunday School.

1888, September 17th.—In 1888 the choir, under the leadership of Mr. James Lord, desiring to make themselves more proficient, decided to replace the harmonium in the Chapel by an organ, although at the time there was £400 of a debt on the Chapel. Under these circumstances the Trustees could not see their way to accept the responsibility. The choir, therefore, took upon themselves to provide the organ by permission of the Trustees and formed themselves into a Committee to wait upon their friends for subscriptions, and eventually the organ was purchased from Messrs. B. R. Grindrod and Company, Edward-street, Rochdale, for £130. The opening services took place on the 17th September, 1888, and the collections on this day amounted to the sum of £17 6s. 1d. An organ recital was also held on the 30th October, with Mr. David Clegg presiding at the organ, and £6 2s. 2d. was collected. By January, 1889, the organ was paid for, together with other expenses incurred by the alterations, altogether amounting to £147 0s. 10d.

1888, September 19.—Sister Sarah Ann Ashworth died. She was a member of the Church meeting in Brother Job Broadbent's class. Her end was peace.

1889, June 6.—Brother John Fenton served as Chapel Steward from this date on account of Brother William Lord's declining health.

1889.—The observance of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper adopted as an alternative test of admittance to membership in the Church by Baillie-street Circuit quarterly meeting.

BAZAAR AT THE PUBLIC HALL,

January 3rd and 4th, 1890.

A large company assembled in the Public Hall, Baillie-street, on Friday afternoon, at the opening of a two days' bazaar in aid of the United Methodist Free Church and Sunday School, Lowerfold. Mr. John Baron of Burnley presided, supported on the platform by the Revs. T. W. Townend, J. Stuttard, H. Raymont, Messrs. T. Townend, Councillor W. Lord, John Ormerod (Castleton), Thomas Matthew, and James Lord.

After prayer by the Rev. T. W. Townend and the singing of a hymn,

Mr. James Lord made a financial statement. He said the School was erected in 1846 at a cost of £520, and enlarged a few years later, the cost being £120. The corner stone of the Chapel was laid in June, 1869 (the trust premises being then free from debt), and the building was opened in the following April. The cost was about £1,750, and at the close of the year the debt stood at £240. The purchase of land on lease and other extras in 1871 incurred a further expenditure of £400. The vestries were destroyed by fire in 1870, and were not insured; they were restored at a cost of £237 without adding to the debt, the Ladies' Sewing Committee having contributed £183. At the close of 1872 the debt was £625, and at Christmas, 1878, after new heating apparatus had been put in and the Chapel decorated, it was £648. At present they owed £340, and had £61 17s. 11d. cash in hand, leaving 278 2s. 1d. as the balance of the debt. During 1888 a new organ was added and paid for at a cost of nearly £150. The Chapel premises now wanted re-decorating, and it was hoped by

this bazaar, not only to pay off the debt, but to realise money for beautifying the place. At present there are 194 scholars and 38 teachers in the Sunday School; the library contains 200 volumes.

Mr. Baron said he presumed that the reason he was asked to preside was that he was once a teacher at Lowerfold School. As he stood there his mind was flooded with a crowd of reminiscences in reference to the School. He thought it was about 1844 when he first became a teacher at Lowerfold. At that time they had the school in a little cottage house which stood opposite to where the present school premises are situate. Some of the happiest hours of his life were spent there, and as he thought upon those days he remembered many honoured names—Robert Clegg, Francis Clegg, John Hill, John Leach, Richard Lord, Robert Standring, William Chadwick, Samuel Chadwick, Samuel Holden, John Gledhill, Thomas Smith, John Ormerod, Thomas Townend, James Standring, his (the speaker's) brother William, and a number of others, along with a goodly number of females. Forty years ago the School was looked upon by many as a model, and it must have done a great amount of good in the neighbourhood. After a few words on bazaars in general, Mr. Baron called upon

Mr. Thomas Townend to open the bazaar. Mr. Townend was a teacher at Lowerfold at the same time as Mr. Baron, and he also referred to the old days. He hoped the bazaar would be a success, and that the Church and School would be still more successful in the future than they had been in the past.

Mr. John Ormerod moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Baron for presiding, and to Mr. Townend for opening the bazaar. He said he was the only teacher now at the School who taught in the old cottage referred to by the Chairman. He regretted the departure of much of the familiar fellowship of those times, and said he would far rather be called John, as he used to be, than Mr. Ormerod.

Mr. T. Matthew seconded, and Councillor W. Lord supported this resolution, which was carried unanimously, and after Messrs. Baron and Townend had replied the business of the bazaar commenced.

No attempt had been made at elaborate decoration, but the stalls were nicely arranged, and were crowded with articles well worth buying. It was evident that the ladies and gentlemen on the Committees had worked hard, and that many others had given acceptable help. The following were the stallholders:—

No. 1 Stall.—Mrs. John Leach, Mrs. Butterworth, Mrs. R. Schofield, Mrs. W. Ashworth, Mrs. John Lord, and Miss Wood.

No. 2 Stall.—Mrs. J. Garside, Mrs. James Lord, Mrs. D. Ashworth, Mrs. J. T. Leach, and Miss Lord.

No. 3 Stall.—Miss Schofield, Miss Matthew, Miss Townley, and Miss Spencer.

No. 4 Stall.—Mrs. Glazier, Miss Ormerod, Miss S. J. Ormerod, and Miss A. M. Ormerod.

Refreshment Stall.—Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. W. Mills, Mrs. Maxim, Mrs. Levi Wood, Mr. and Mrs. E. Ashworth, Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, Mr. and Mrs. T. Matthew, Mr. and Mrs. Fenton, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mills.

The large number of visitors kept the stallholders busy. In addition to the business of buying and selling, a number of entertainments were given during the afternoon and evening. Selections on the organ were played by Mr. E. B. Petrie and Mr. Horatio Lumb, organist of All Saints' Church, Halifax. Songs and recitations were also given.

The following Committees had charge of the arrangements:—

General Committee.—Messrs. William Lord, John Lord, John Fenton, Levi Butterworth, David Ashworth, Robert Henry Wilson, John Thomas Leach, James Lord, William Mills (treasurer), Robert Butterworth (secretary), Stephen Shore (assistant secretary), Mrs. William Ashworth, Mrs. J. Garside, Mrs. R. Schofield, Mrs. T. Matthew, Mrs. John Lord, Mrs. John Butterworth, Mrs. D. Ashworth, Mrs. Joseph Mills, Mrs. James Lord, Miss Lord, and Miss Wood.

Ladies' Committee.—Mrs. W. Ashworth, Mrs. John Leach, Mrs. R. Schofield, Mrs. John Lord, Mrs. John Butterworth, Mrs. T. Matthew, Mrs. J. Garside, Mrs. J. T. Leach, Mrs. D. Ashworth, Mrs. Joseph Mills, Mrs. James Lord, Miss Lord, and Miss Wood (secretary).

From the bazaar the total amount received up to Tuesday, January 7th, was £408 17s. 2d. From this sum the expenses of the undertaking had to be paid.

1890, June 12.—Sarah, the wife of Mr. Job Broadbent, Harridge-street, Lowerfold, departed this life, aged 54 years. She was a member of this Church and had been a devoted teacher in the School for some years.

1890, December 14.—The teachers decided to adopt the star system for marking the attendance of scholars and the same was put in operation on the 1st of March, 1891, this being the date of commencing the school year.

1891, January 11.—Special Evangelistic Mission commenced at Lowerfold, conducted by Mr. Robert Booth, Connexional evangelist, to Saturday, 17th January.

1891, May 31.—James Lord having resigned his position, the choir on this date presented him with a photograph taken in the garden at Healey Hall of the whole 30 members constituting the choir. Below the photograph the following memorandum was printed:—

> "Presented to Mr. James Lord by the members of the U.M.F.C., Lowerfold Chapel Choir as a token of respect for his twelve years' services as choirmaster."

1891, October 10.—Alderman Thomas Schofield, J.P., a Trustee of this Chapel, completed 50 years of Sunday School work, and was presented with an address and a medallion bust of himself at Baillie-street Sunday School.

1891, December 2.—Mrs. Maria Lord, wife of Mr. William Lord, former Steward of the Chapel, died, aged 56 years, and was interred at Healey Church. She was devoted to the cause at Lowerfold, and was of great encouragement and assistance to her husband in his multifarious duties. For some years she was a teacher in the Sunday School, and served the Church and School well in a variety of ways.

1892, May 24.—At a special Trustees' meeting, held on this date, the following gentlemen agreed to continue as Trustees for the premises: William Lord, Thomas Schofield John Ormerod, Charles William Schofield, Henry Wilson, John Mills, Edmund Ashworth, George Fielden, and John William Bentley. The following additional Trustees were also appointed: John Nichol, Thomas Woolfenden, William

T. Hibbert, David Ashworth, John Fenton, Jeremiah Haslam, Alfred Maxim, Stephen Shore, John Lord, Thomas Woolfenden (Lowerfold), Job Broadbent, and James Woolfenden.

1892, December 26.—This Monday afternoon about 100 persons representing the aged and poor of Shawclough and Lowerfold district met in the Hollows schoolroom to partake of the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. John Robinson, now of Edinburgh but formerly of Shawclough. Mrs. Robinson up to the time of her marriage was a scholar in the Lowerfold School, and in remembrance of past associations determined this Christmas to manifest their sympathy in this delightful way to the aged and poor in her native village. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson provided for their guests a substantial tea, which proved very tempting to the palate and satisfying to the appetite. The party entertained did ample justice to the repast. Subsequently dessert was served and a miscellaneous concert was given. Mr. Thomas Matthew presided, and an enjoyable programme of recitations, solos, duets, and quartettes was gone through by the Misses Williamson and Coupe, Messrs. J. T. Leach, James Smith, and Walter Greenwood. Mr. J. T. Leach, the brother of Mrs. Robinson, accompanied on the piano. A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson for the generous provision and excellent entertainment of the guests.

1892, December 29th.—William Lord, son of Richard Lord, one of the founders of this place, died at Southport, aged 55 years. Mr. Edward Consterdine, the School Secretary, in his annual report, referring to it, says:—

"An old Superintendent and member of the Church departed this life on December 29th, 1892. We refer to Mr. William Lord, who died, at the age of 55, respected and loved by all who were fortunate enough to know him. He first joined the School in 1840, when three years of age, and had been closely connected with the place ever since. He had, with one exception only, his name on the scholars' register for a longer period than any other scholar.

"For 52 years he had been living in a measure for this place of worship, first as a learner and afterwards as a teacher and worker, and has left us an example worth imitating. When young he learned how to live a useful

life, and did so, and when he became a man he did his part equally well, doing everything he undertook with his whole soul. The pushing forward of the Gospel was apparently the chief object of his life. He was always desirous of doing what needed doing in connection with the Church, even if that were to his own bodily discomfort. On occasions, if he had consulted his own temporal interests, he would have left undone many things which he finally accomplished.

"A short time before his death he told a friend that he then saw how he had neglected his own health by continually living such a mentally active life and neglecting proper bodily recreation; thus showing him to have lived a life of sacrifice and died a martyr, shall we say, to the cause which he considered most important. For many years his only recreation from business appeared to be in working for the Church. He held at various times all the offices of the Church and School, beginning at the bottom and working his way to the top. He was a Trustee for several churches at the same time and was one who did much towards erecting this Chapel. He was in some request as a public man, having been a town councillor and held seats on various committees of the borough. He was a pious and devoted disciple of his Master, and furthered his cause whenever he was able by his benevolent assistance.

"For several years his health had been failing, and about three years ago he had to leave his native village for a change, and though at times he seemed to be improving a little, he never gained very good health. Soon after leaving the neighbourhood he had to suffer the great loss of his wife, who died somewhat suddenly, from which shock he never seemed to thoroughly recover and was evidently troubled all the rest of his life.

"In a letter about a fortnight before his death he said he was about to try to do a little business, but he appears even at that time to have attempted more than he was able to do. Thus, consistently with his whole life, he endeavoured to do whatever he could in the way of work. Then when he had finished his work of 52 years' labour he was taken from this world to his reward, and his remains were interred at Christ's Church, Healey, in the presence of many sorrowing friends."

The funeral and memorial service, etc., were thus referred to in the "Rochdale Observer":—

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. WILLIAM LORD.

The remains of the late Mr. William Lord, whose death we announced in Saturday's "Observer," were interred at Healey churchyard yesterday afternoon, in the presence of a large concourse of people. Prior to the interment a memorial service was held in the United Methodist Free Church, Lowerfold, with which Chapel Mr. Lord was connected for many years, and of which he held the post of Steward at the time of his decease. There was a large congregation at the service. The hymn, "When our heads are bowed with woe," was impressively rendered, and after prayer by the Rev. W. Dunstan, and a lesson read by the Rev. E. Hogg (of the Baillie-street Circuit)

The Rev. H. Raymont (formerly of Baillie-street but now of Castlemere Circuit) delivered a short and appropriate address. He remarked that they were met that afternoon under the shadow of a great trial. The events of the past few days had brought sorrow and grief to many families in the neighbourhood. Amongst those who had been taken from them was Mr. Hugh Scott, an earnest Christian worker, and one who was very liberal. Following this came the terrible ice disaster at Marland which plunged four families into grief and cast a gloom over the whole town. Then came the awful intelligence relating to their brother, Mr. William Lord. All these things tended to make them sad at heart, but they sorrowed not with those who were without hope. There had been a great shadow on their departed brother's life for some time, but they knew him when that shadow did not rest upon him. They knew him when he was clear and vigorous in both mind and body. They had seen him in his Church and Sunday School life; they had seen him in his business and town duties; and they knew him to be a devoted Christian. He (the speaker) had known Mr. Lord personally for a year or two, and well knew him to be a godly man. He trusted this dispensation would bring them each nearer to God. He thanked God for their brother's life as he knew it when he (Mr. Raymont) first came in the Circuit. He doubted not their brother would be one of those they would meet in the higher and better world, amongst those who had washed their robes, and

made them white in the blood of the Lamb. He need not say that their hearts went out in sympathy to Mr. Lord's bereaved family.

The Rev. M. T. Myers, who said he had known Mr. Lord about twenty years, having met him frequently at the Church Assembly, also stated that he believed him to be an honourable, devoted, Christian man.

At the conclusion of the service Mr. J. T. Leach played the "Dead March" in "Saul." The congregation then walked in procession to meet the funeral *cortége*. The body arrived from Southport by the 2 35 train, and was at once taken to Healey Church, which was reached shortly before four o'clock.

The body was conveyed in an enclosed hearse, and there were five mourning coaches. The coffin, which was of polished oak, with brass fittings, bore the following inscription: "William Lord, died December 29th, 1892, aged 55 years." The principal mourners were Mr. and Mrs. S. Lord, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Woolfenden, and Mr. Standring. Miss Lord was unable to be present through illness. There were also present at the graveside the Revs. Silas K. Hocking (Southport), M. T. Myers, H. Raymont, E. Hogg, and W. Dunstan, Councillor R. Collinge, Messrs. T. King, R. Turner, J. Ormerod (Castleton), J. Maden, J. Turner, J. Lord, S. Glover, T. Woolfenden, J. Woolfenden, W. Frost, J. Nichol, R. T. Butterworth, J. Fenton, and many others.

The first part of the solemn burial service was conducted in the church, the Vicar (the Rev. J. J. H. Cottle) and the Rev. M. T. Myers officiating, the latter reading the lesson. At the graveside the service was again taken by the Vicar, and was concluded by the singing of the hymn, "Jesu, lover of my soul."

Many floral wreaths and tributes of respect were sent to Mr. Lord's family. They included one from the congregation worshipping at Lowerfold United Methodist Free Church. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. J. W. Hubbard of Southport.

A VOTE OF CONDOLENCE.

At a meeting held in connection with the Lowerfold United Methodist Free Church on Saturday a vote of condolence, couched in sympathetic language, was passed to the

daughter of the late Mr. William Lord, on the sad circumstances of the death of her father at Southport last week. Prior to his removal to Southport Mr. Lord had been connected with the Lowerfold U.M.F.C. Sunday School for about 52 years. He had occupied the position of superintendent there. After the passing of the vote, Mr. J. T. Leach played the "Dead March" in "Saul" on the harmonium.

A PULPIT REFERENCE.

Preaching at Baillie-street Chapel on Sunday morning, Mr. W. Frost referred to the death of Mr. William Lord. He said that some of the friends connected with that chapel remembered Mr. Lord distinctly well as being a very useful worker at Lowerfold. That morning they felt sad at heart that he had passed away so comparatively early in life. He (the preacher) had heard nothing but expressions of grief, sorrow, and sympathy towards the bereaved family of the deceased. They knew Mr. Lord particularly as an active worker at Lowerfold, and also as a member of the Rochdale Town Council some years ago. His life had been one of usefulness, and it was with deep regret that they had heard of his death.

MEMORIAL SERVICE IN LOWERFOLD CHAPEL.

On Sunday evening the Rev. M. T. Myers conducted a special service in memory of the late Mr. William Lord in the United Methodist Free Church, Lowerfold. There was a large congregation.

Mr. Myers preached an eloquent sermon on the text: "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his" (Numbers xxiii., 10.) At the close of the discourse the preacher made touching reference to the subject of the service. He said they had met there that night to pay a tribute of respect to their late brother, Mr. William Lord. He believed Mr. Lord had died the death of the righteous: with the Divine approval, and with the approval of his own conscience. He might be said to have been born into the church, as in the year 1837, when he was a baby, his parents brought him to the chapel for which the edifice they were then in was afterwards substituted. With the exception of that of the preacher, Mr. Lord had filled every office in the church with great credit. The way in

which he had kept the various books whilst he occupied the offices referred to was an example to all other officials in like positions. He (the preacher) had been in the circuit some years, and had never heard anyone say a word against Mr. Lord. His conduct had commanded the respect and affection of all who knew him, and he had lived a righteous and godly life. In conclusion, Mr. Myers appealed to the young men present to take up the mantle of their deceased brother. If they did that God would be sure to prosper and reward them.

At an adjourned quarterly teachers' meeting on the 17th June, 1900, it was resolved that a large portrait of the late William Lord be obtained, the funds to be raised by public subscription. A committee was appointed, with John Ernest Lord as Secretary. Their arrangements were finally carried out, and the portrait—a fine, large photograph—is considered a very true likeness, and hangs in the schoolroom as a memorial, along with those of John Ormerod, Francis Clegg, and Richard Lord (the father of the late William Lord).

1893, March.—Mr. Henry Wilson received a letter from an old Sunday school scholar, Thomas Edmund Brierley, formerly of Harridge, who attended Mr. Wilson's class. It is 11 years since he went to New Zealand, and the following remarks will be interesting, as they show how the old days are remembered: "I am very glad to say that the seed was sown when I was attending your experience class on Sunday mornings. I often think what good times we used to have for an hour or so and the advice you used to give us in the way we ought to live. If you are still leader of the same class or teacher of the same class I was in, tell them from me that I am very thankful that I went to a Sunday school when I was young, for it has left the Word of God written on my heart, though I am 16,000 miles away from my home and old school mates."

1893, March 12.—A Bible was presented, together with an introductory letter, to Albert H. Scholes, a scholar in the school, on his leaving this country for the United States.

1893, March 14.—Entertainment in the schoolroom, kindly given by Mrs. F. W. Petrie of West Bank, Lowerfold, with the assistance of a party, provided by her for the benefit of the choir and Church funds.

1893, May 3.—John Thomas Leach tendered his resignation as organist on account of his removal to Edinburgh. He was the son of John and Jane Leach, and began to play the harmonium at Lowerfold when about 16 years of age, and continued till he was appointed organist at Baillie-street Chapel in 1883, which office he held for over five years. A few months after he left Baillie-street the organ was put in at Lowerfold, and he was again appointed as organist and continued until his removal to Edinburgh, having served us altogether 24 years.

At the Sunday School anniversary in 1894 an illuminated address was presented to him, of which the following is a copy:—

United Methodist Free Church, Lowerfold, Rochdale.

Mr. John Thomas Leach.

Dear Brother,—We, the Trustees, Sunday School Teachers, Scholars, and Members of the Congregation, worshipping at the above place of worship, beg that you will accept this address as a token of the esteem in which your efficient services have been held as organist of our Chapel, and for the valuable aid, rendered to our choir in other ways.

We also take this opportunity of recognising the interest you have taken in our Sunday School and regret your removal from amongst us very much, but we trust that in the future you will find some sphere of usefulness in the Lord's work, and we wish you every success in this world and that when you come to the end of life's pilgrimage you will have an abundant entrance into the heavenly inheritance.

We remain,

Yours, on behalf of the above,

JOHN LORD.
JOHN ORMEROD.
JOHN FENTON.
JAMES WOOLFENDEN, Secretary.

1893, October 10.—The Sunday school teachers and officers, clergymen and ministers, local preachers, and missionaries of the borough invited by the Mayor, James Duckworth, Esq., to a conversazione in the Town Hall.

1893, October 16.—Harvest thanksgiving services held for the first time. Proceeds in aid of Society funds. Collections and fruit banquet realised £12 5s. 7d.

1893, November 4, 5, 6, 7.—Mrs. Lees from Bowron House, London, conducted special evangelistic services in the Chapel.

1894, March 4.—On this day (Sunday) Mr. J. W. Leach of Colne, with some of his friends from that district, rendered musical services in the Chapel afternoon and evening. Mr. Leach had been a former scholar in the School, and his mother was the first scholar registered when it met for the first time in May, 1835. Prompted by the memory of past associations, he made himself responsible for providing the music at both services, and he was exceptionally successful. The congregation had a musical treat. The following artistes had been secured: Soprano, Miss M. E. Hartley, R.A.M.; contralto, Miss Nutter; baritone, Mr. A. White; solo violin, Mr. O'Mally; solo 'cello, Mr. J. W. Leach; solo piano and accompanist, Mr. M. Watson. Miss Hartley's sweet and well trained voice was peculiarly adapted to the songs she selected. She sang with much feeling and good effect. Miss Nutter's songs, "For ever with the Lord" and "The better land," were pleasingly rendered. The other vocalist, Mr. A. White, was also very successful. The instrumental part of the programme was much enjoyed. Messrs. O'Mally, Leach, and Watson gave two trios (besides their solo contributions), and these were two of the most enjoyable items on the programme. Mr. O'Mally is a master of the instrument. Mr. Watson's pianoforte solos were brilliantly played. Mr. F. Diggle presided at the organ, and Mr. S. Rawstron was the choirmaster. These services will be long remembered. Mr. John Fenton presided at each service, and the collections, which were in aid of the School fund, amounted to £7 8s. 9½d.

1894, June 25.—Mr. Edmund Ashworth died. The School Secretary, in his annual report, says: "He died after a few hours' sickness. His name appears in the school register from December 18th, 1853, and from that date he was a scholar until June 2nd, 1861. Then he withdrew as a scholar, and the reason stated was indisposition, but again became connected with the School and was also a member of the Church. He was at the time of his death the teacher

of the first class females, a position he had held, together with that of teaching the first class males and superintendent of the School, from March, 1881. He was an ardent and zealous worker for the cause of Christ and the uplifting of mankind. He could always be relied upon to be at his post, and though he did not possess the talents of a genius, he used those he did possess to the best of his ability. He was at his post the day before his death doing work for the Master. When the news of his sudden death reached the friends at Lowerfold it reminded them of the solemn thought, 'That in the midst of life we are in death.' He was interred at Rochdale Cemetery on June 27th, 1894, and his remains were followed by many sincere and sympathising friends. His loss has been very keenly felt." Mr. Ashworth was a native of this village, and was 59 years of age at his death. He was also a Trustee of the Chapel and School. During his riper years he was an enthusiastic total abstainer. Having personally experienced the evil effects of intemperance, he became a strong advocate of the Band of Hope movement at Lowerfold and for some years gave it his best services.

1894, October 7.—Miss Eliza Albiston, a scholar in the school, presented by the Superintendent with a Bible, she being about to remove from this country to Canada to join her father and brother who went from here some months ago. She is to be accompanied by her mother and sister.

1895, January 22.—Death of Mrs. Sarah Fenton of Heald Cottage, Lowerfold. "The Baillie-street Circuit has lost a very zealous and consistent member by the death of Mrs. Fenton, the devoted wife of Mr. John Fenton, cashier at Messrs. Petrie and Company Limited, engineers, etc., of this town, and the much respected Steward of the Lowerfold Church, and one of the Superintendents of the Sunday School. Mrs. Fenton came to Rochdale in November, 1867, and was engaged in the service of Mr. John Petrie, South-street. At that time she attended Baillie-street Chapel and became a member of Mr. Oliver Ormerod's class. On May 14th, 1874, she was married at the above-named Chapel, where she still retained her membership until their removal to Lowerfold twelve years ago, when she joined her husband's class connected with that Church. She was at Baillie-street Chapel on Sunday evening, January 20th, the occa-

sion of the Sunday School anniversary. The following day was her 43rd birthday, and early the next morning (Tuesday, January 22nd) she suddenly expired. She has left a sorrowing husband and six children, who keenly feel and deeply mourn her loss. The interment took place on Friday afternoon, January 25th. A special service was conducted in our Lowerfold Chapel, where there was a large number of relations and friends, some of whom had come long distances to pay their last tribute of respect to one so dearly beloved. The officiating ministers were the Revs. W. Dunstan, E. Hogg, and C. Hibbert. The remains were then removed to the Rochdale Cemetery, followed by many friends, notwithstanding the heavy snowstorm which prevailed at the time. Several floral tokens were laid upon the coffin, including one from the husband and children of the deceased; one from the teachers, scholars, members, and congregation of Lowerfold; one from Mr. John Standring of Southport; and another from the clerks, draughtsmen, and foreman employed at Messrs. Petrie and Company's works."—From the "Free Methodist."

1895, March 22.—Brother Job Broadbent resigned his leadership of the Society Class.

1896, July 17.—Death of Fred Mills, aged 19 years, a scholar in the second Bible class. He was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Mills and had been connected with the School from childhood.

1896, August 2.—This day (Sunday) old scholars' services were held. Special interest was attached to the services owing to the fact that the School has now celebrated its Jubilee, the present schoolroom being occupied for the first time 50 years ago. Alderman Duckworth preached excellent sermons in the afternoon and evening. Special music was rendered by the old scholars, and the hymns were sung to old tunes. Mr. Samuel Rawstron was the conductor, and Mr. Horrocks the organist. Large congregations attended both services, and many hearty greetings took place amongst the old scholars. The collections in aid of funds for remodelling the School realised £15 17s. 7d.

1897, January 24.—During the last week one of the scholars, Mrs. Rose Ellen Smith, eldest daughter of John P. Baker of this village, died, leaving a bereaved husband

and two children. Suitable reference was made to the event from the pulpit on the Sunday following by Mr. Thomas Forth, preacher.

1897, June 19.—The Sick and Burial Society here has been established half a century this day. The event was celebrated by the Society, and an illuminated memorial card printed and circulated amongst the members bearing the following memoranda :—

U.M.F.C. LOWERFOLD SICK AND BURIAL SOCIETY.

Established 19th June, 1847.

FIRST OFFICERS.

John Ormerod, President.
John Whitehead, Secretary.
Joseph Bellhouse, Alice Hindle, } Sick Stewards.
John Baron, Francis Clegg, } Auditors.
Sarah Hindle, Jane Hill, Martha Hoyle, Mary Warburton, Alice Butterworth, Sarah Butterworth, John Greenhalgh, } Committee.

Jubilee Memento Card, 19th June, 1897.

PRESENT OFFICERS.

President, William Ashworth, Healey Dell.
Treasurer, Benjamin Lord, 31, Mount-street.
Secretary, William Swettenham, 28, Market-street, Healey.
Money Steward, Walter Mills, Susan Jane-street.
Male Sick Steward, Robert Butterworth.
Female Sick Steward, Martha Hoyle.
Auditors—James Lord, 43, Norden Road, Bamford.
William Robert Ashworth, Healey Dell.
Committee—Jane Butler, Market-street, Whitworth.
Hannah Sunderland, Lowerfold.
Thomas Scholes, New Barn Lane.
Eli Bentley, Balfour-street, Spotland.

Number of members, 254.

Funds	£2141	19	4
Paid in sick	2467	0	0
Paid in funerals	689	0	0

1897, June 22.—Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and Record Reign celebrations by Sunday school scholars.

1897, September 26.—Mr. James Maden preached the funeral sermon of Sister Eleanor Jones of Lowerfold, who died September 13th, aged 77 years, and was a scholar in this School. She originally came from Wales with her husband and family, and for many years was an inhabitant of this village. A good woman, poor in this world's goods but rich in faith. Greatly attached to the reading of her Bible and to the House of God, and now entered into the heavenly inheritance.

1897, December 25th and 27.—Grand Christmas Tree and Village Fair held in the Sunday School to clear off the debt which is being incurred by the renovation of the School, which is estimated to cost £200. Declared open on the 25th December by the Mayoress of Rochdale (Mrs. Miles Ashworth), whose father (the Rev. John Kershaw) was a former inhabitant of this village; Chairman, the Rev. R. Berry of Hallfold. The Fair was re-opened on the 27th by Councillor Amos Barraclough; Chairman, Councillor Thomas Smith of Healey.

1898, January 2.—Sunday School held in Chapel on account of the renovation of the schoolroom.

1898, January 29.—Public tea meeting to celebrate opening of School after renovation. Mr. William Parkinson, an old teacher, presided, and it was addressed by Mr. George Bellhouse, formerly a teacher; Mr. John Ormerod and Mr. Henry Wilson, present teachers. A financial statement was read that £171 had been obtained towards the expenses of the renovation, which had been estimated to cost about £220 to £230.

1898, January 30.—Sunday School held in the schoolroom to-day, being the first Sunday after renovation. Much satisfaction was expressed at the improved appearance and convenience of the schoolroom. Re-opening sermons were preached in the Chapel in the afternoon by Mr. John Nichol and in the evening by the Rev. E. Bocock. Collections £4 17s. 7½d. in aid of renovation fund. A prayer meeting

was held after evening service, to which a goodly number remained, and a rich spiritual influence pervaded the meeting.

1898, February 12.—Concert given this (Saturday) evening, at seven o'clock, in the schoolroom, arranged for and provided by Mr. Walter Ingle. Proceeds in aid of renovation fund.

1898, February 16.—Public tea meeting, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mills, on behalf of the renovation fund. £7 10s. 0d. was realised at the meeting. Mrs. William Ashworth presided. Mrs. T. Shore of Whitworth and Miss Sarah Ann Wood were speakers. The event was held to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mills, their's being the first wedding in Lowerfold Chapel, on which occasion a Bible and hymn book were presented to the happy couple.

1898, February 26.—This (Saturday) afternoon an "At Home" was held in the School under the management of the second class males. Opened by John Ormerod, Esq., at 4 30 p.m. Chairman, Mr. W. R. Ashworth of Healey Dell. Proceeds for renovation fund.

1898, March 6.—In Lowerfold village proper and adjacent to the School there are at this date 44 houses occupied by 174 persons; 16 houses empty; and four of these in ruins (old School is a part in ruins); total number of houses, exclusive of cellars, 60.

1898, March 13.—George Fielden, as representative of the Circuit School Union, and formerly a teacher and also a leader in the Church here, visited the School and gave the address to the School in the morning. In the afternoon a musical service was rendered, provided by Mr. Samuel Rawstron, the leader of the choir, and collections were made on behalf of the trust fund.

1898, March 15.—This afternoon Mr. and Mrs. David Ashworth celebrated their silver wedding by the gift of a tea in the schoolroom. Over 400 people were present, and a meeting was afterwards held in the Chapel, attended by about 450 persons. An interesting programme for the entertainment had been arranged. The bigaphone band from West-street Baptist Sunday School were present. Oranges were distributed during the evening, and a very

enjoyable time was spent. The proceeds, which were in aid of the renovation fund of the School, amounted to £11 8s. 1d. Mr. James Lord, who was best man at the wedding, occupied the chair, and a vote of thanks was tendered to the donors.

1898, March 17.—The Rev. R. Berry of Hallfold gave a lecture in the schoolroom this evening. Subject, "Matrimony." Mr. Robert Turner of Spotland occupied the chair. The lecture had been provided under the auspices of the improvement class, and a collection was made on behalf of the funds of this institution.

1898, March 26.—Potato pie supper amongst the members of the improvement class.

1898, April 2.—The annual tea meeting in connection with the Sunday School was held this afternoon. There was rather a thin attendance on account of the Liberal bazaar at the Town Hall. About 80 persons partook of tea, and about 100 were present at the after meeting, over which Mr. John Mills, a former teacher, presided. The Rev. H. Raymont of Castlemere Circuit and the Rev. E. Bocock were the speakers. The chairman distributed the prizes to the scholars for good attendance.

1898, April 10.—A meeting of the congregation was held to receive a report from the Renovation Committee. It was stated that £280 had been spent on the alterations and improvements of the schoolroom and £200 had already been obtained towards it.

1898, April 12.—In aid of the renovation fund a tea was given by three old scholars, viz., James Milne (Littleborough), John Mills (Rochdale), and Jesse Lord (Blackpool). Between 200 and 300 persons were present. Mr. James Milne presided, and about £6 14s. 3d. was realised.

1898, April 17.—This afternoon in the School Mr. Charles Johnson and Mrs. Mary Johnson were presented with a Bible on account of their removing next Thursday for Montreal, whither the father of Mrs. Johnson (Mr. Albiston) went four years ago exactly to the day, having set sail from Liverpool. Mr. Albiston was a previous caretaker here.

1898, May 11.—William Mills, widower, and Jane Butler, spinster, both teachers in the Sunday school, married in the Chapel this day by the Rev. Charles Ogden in the

presence of the Registrar, Mr. Williamson, and many neighbours and friends. Mr. Thomas Elvyn Kershaw presided at the organ. The wedding ceremony took place at eight o'clock in the morning.

1898, May 14.—This (Saturday) afternoon a photograph was taken by Mr. Pinder of the first class males for the purpose of being presented to their teacher, William Mills, who was married on the 11th instant.

1898, May 24.—On this day (Tuesday) a very successful tea party and entertainment was held. The tea was given by Mr. William Mills, teacher of the first class males, in commemoration of his recent marriage with Miss Jane Butler of Higher Ending, also a teacher in the same School. About 1,100 persons sat down to tea. There were two entertainments proceeding at the same time, one in the Chapel and the other in the School. Both buildings were crowded to excess. The entertainment in the Chapel was presided over by Mr. Richard Thomas Butterworth, a Trustee, and he was accompanied on the platform by an old Crimean veteran, Mr. James Clegg of Rochdale, a former resident of Lowerfold. In the School the chair was occupied by Mr. James Kay of Rochdale, formerly a scholar. The receipts amounted to £30, which sum Mr. Mills has kindly contributed to the school renovation fund.

1898, June 3 (Whit-Friday).—Sunday School procession as usual. A fairly fine day. Buns, oranges, etc., distributed and games enjoyed in the field at Harridge Farm. A photograph of the first class young men was presented in the morning to their teacher, Mr. William Mills.

1898, July 9.—Choir trip to Worksop. Visited Welbeck Abbey and Thoresby Hall.

1898, August 25.—Died this day, John Baron, J.P., of Lark Hill, Burnley, aged 73 years. A member of the Town Council, Board of Guardians, and School Board of Burnley, and also ex-Mayor of Burnley. Formerly a teacher in this School, as was also his father, James Baron. At the opening of the bazaar in 1890 he said "some of the happiest hours of his life were spent in Lowerfold School."

1898, November 19.—This (Saturday) afternoon at half-past two o'clock, Emma Garside, one of our scholars and daughter of James and Sarah Garside of Spotland,

married in the Chapel by the Rev. E. Bocock to Robert Woolfenden, one of our teachers and youngest son of John Woolfenden, shoemaker, of this village, and a previous caretaker of these premises.

1898, November 2.—Eleanor Jones, a scholar in the School, died, aged 16 years, and was interred in Healey Churchyard by the Rev. J. J. H. Cottle on the 5th instant. A number of the teachers and scholars attended the funeral. She said "she was going to be with Jesus."

1898, December 26 and 27.—Winter Carnival in the schoolroom. £32 received in aid of School renovation and Band of Hope. Two-thirds of the amount for renovation fund and one-third for Band of Hope. Opened on Monday by Mrs. Henry Booth of Falinge Road. Chairman, Councillor Todd of Whitworth. Opened on Tuesday, the 27th, by Mr. John Ormerod, teacher of the third class girls. Chairman, Mr. William Mills, teacher of the first class males.

1899, April 23.—The Rev. T. J. Dickinson preached School anniversary sermons morning and evening. Robert Hope Brown, Esq., bank manager, gave an address in the afternoon to the scholars. £42 0s. 2d. was collected.

1899, June 4.—Death of Mr. John Ormerod at his residence, Fern Bank, Castleton, in the 80th year of his age. His parents came from the Bolton district to Rochdale when he was six years of age. Having served an apprenticeship to shoemaking, he left that occupation and became employed by Messrs. Oliver and William Ormerod, curriers, Miall-street, Rochdale. In about nine years he was appointed foreman of the establishment, which was an extensive one then. Altogether he remained with the firm 31 years. Having acquired sufficient capital, he in 1868 commenced business in a small way in Cheetham-street as a maker of machine belting. This business was highly successful, and, needing larger and more suitable premises, he erected works in Molesworth-street. Finally, his business continuing to increase, he erected the Globe Works at Castleton, which were greatly extended in 1883. He leaves four sons, all of whom he brought into the business, from which he retired in 1894. Besides the sons there are three daughters. Mr. Ormerod was a prominent and zealous co-operator, and had been a member of the Equitable Pioneers' Society for many years. He was a member of

the Committee of Management, and twice in succession (in 1867 and 1868) he was elected President of the Society. It was during his presidency that the great Central Stores, Toad Lane, were opened. In educational matters he was also to the fore, and for some time he was a member of the Educational Committee. He was appointed one of the first Trustees of the Sotheron-Estcourt Scholarship Fund, of which he afterwards became Secretary, and retained this office until his death. His public offices were in connection with the Rochdale Board of Guardians and the Castleton Urban District Council. On the former he was one of the representatives of the township of Castleton. He was first elected in 1879, and continued to be a member till within a few years of his death, when he resigned. He was at one time vice-chairman of the Board. In politics he was a strong Liberal. He first became a member of the old Castleton Local Board in 1878. He was one of the founders of the organisation known as the "Poor Children's Aid Committee" and chairman from its institution in 1877 till 1890, when he retired. This Committee provided the excellent home at St. Annes. For some years he was a member of the Charity Organisation Society. He had been a total abstainer all his life and was an earnest advocate of temperance. He was connected with the Lowerfold Sunday School and Church and continued this attachment to the end of his days. While quite a young man he joined the friends here in their labours, when they met in the small cottage school in the village previous to 1846, taking great interest in the Sick and Burial Society, the Band of Hope, the Sunday School, and the Church. Almost up to the time of his death he regularly attended his Sunday school class. Often when in a reminiscent mood he would refer to the early days and to the noble men and women who were his contemporaries of that time at Lowerfold. The poor received much of his practical sympathy. He was also a liberal subscriber to the funds of the School and Church, broad-minded in his religious views, yet tolerant to his opponents, but firm in his own convictions and determined in the course which he believed to be right. On his removal to Castleton he still kept attentive to his work at Lowerfold. He had a somewhat short illness, and at the end, though unconscious, his last words and thoughts were of his Sunday school class. His mind seemed to be occu-

pied with the memories of some Sunday school lesson which he had given. His last words were, "I am ready." Many of his co-workers and his scholars in the Sunday School contributed a floral tribute and joined the funeral *cortége* at Sudden and also took part in the obsequies at the Heywood Cemetery where he was interred.

1899, July 1.—Harridge Mills closed.

1899, July 16.—Reference made from the pulpit to the death of Emil Bamford, a young man in the first class, who was interred during the last week. His relatives attended service in the afternoon, and the "Dead March" was played on the organ, the people standing. Preacher, Rev. Charles Ogden.

1900, March 17.—The Lowerfold, Shawclough, and Healey Methodist Church Union was inaugurated at a gathering of representatives from four Sunday schools, viz., Hollows and Lowerfold U.M.F.C., Zion Primitive Methodist Chapel, Shawclough, and the Wesleyan Chapel, Healey, called together as the result of a United Mission which had been held in Hollows Chapel and conducted by Sister Agnes from Bowron House, London. Mr. John Fenton, Lowerfold, was appointed President; Mr. James Pilling, Rochdale, Vice-President; Mr. A. D'Arcy Wall, Shawclough, Treasurer; and Mr. Wilfred Ashworth, Shawclough, Secretary; to work with a Committee formed by representatives from each place. The object of the Union is to make united effort for the moral, social, and spiritual welfare of the inhabitants of the district.

1900, April 2.—Alice Lord, the widow of John Lord, died, aged 83 years, after suffering a long and painful affliction. She had been a member of our Church for many years, and her children took great interest in the cause at Lowerfold.

1900, October.—Large photographs of the old Cottage School and present School presented by Mr. Alfred Maxim and hung in the schoolroom.

1900, November 7.—Grace, the wife of John Fenton of Heald Cottage, Lowerfold, died, aged 36 years. A member of the congregation worshipping at Lowerfold. Her departure was deeply regretted.

December 5, 1900.—Fred Buckley, a scholar in the first class males, was awarded a scholarship known as the "John

Rigg Exhibition." This he received for success in the engineering classes in the May examinations, 1900, held at the Rochdale Technical School. This Exhibition was valued at £50 per annum, renewable for a term not exceeding three years. With this he decided to go in for higher education, and on October 2, 1901, entered for a three years' course in engineering at the Owens College, Manchester (Victoria University), specialising in mechanical engineering.

Statement made by John Fenton, Chapel Steward, in the U.M.F.C. Special Chapel Schedule for 1901, issued by order of the Annual Assembly, respecting Lowerfold Chapel, etc., Baillie-street Circuit, Rochdale:—

QUESTIONS.

I. Chapel.

1. When was it built?—1869.
2. What has been the total cost?—£2,300.
3. What is the present debt?—£25.
4. How many persons will it seat?—430.
5. Actual attendance on Sunday, 24th March, 1901?—Afternoon 79, evening 51, total 130.
6. Number of sittings let?—80.
7. Tenure?—Freehold.
8. Is it settled on trust?—Yes.
9. On what deed is it settled?—Model deed.
10. Who holds the deeds?—The Circuit.
11. Present number of Trustees?—18.
12. Is it certified as a place of worship belonging to the U.M.F.C.?—Yes.
13. Is it licensed for marriages?—Yes.
14. What is the average annual income of the Trust?—£54.
15. What is the average annual expenditure for Trust purposes?—£57.
16. Is it insured against fire?—Yes.
17. In what office?—Free Methodist Fire Insurance Association.

II. School.

1. Is the School under the Chapel, at its end or side, or is it a separate building?—A separate building.
2. When was it built?—1846.
3. What did it cost?—£900 with added improvements.
4. What is the present debt?—None.

5. Tenure?—Freehold.
6. Is it settled on Trust?—Yes.
7. On what deed is it settled?—Model deed.
8. Who holds the deeds?—The Circuit.
9. Present number of Trustees?—18.
10. How many scholars will it accommodate?—300.
11. Is it insured against fire?—Yes.
12. In what office?—Free Methodist Insurance Association.

III. Harmonium.

1. What was the cost of the instrument?—£32.
2. What is the debt on it?—None.

Dated 2nd April, 1901.

JOHN FENTON, Steward.

1901, May 23.—Death of William Mills, the teacher of the first class young men, aged 62 years. He had been connected with the school nearly the whole of his life and was a noble example of uprightness of conduct. He was steady and regular in the discharge of his duties as a teacher and constant in his devotion to the success of the Sunday School. Representatives from the teachers and scholars attended his funeral, and much regret was felt at the loss of such a valuable friend and co-worker.

1902, April 10.—William Baron, formerly a teacher (like his brother John) in Lowerfold Sunday School, died at his residence, Wellington House, Oldham. He was styled in his later years the "Father of the Council" (Rochdale). Elected alderman in 1873 and died "a Freeman" of the borough, the highest honour which can be conferred. Three times he was elected Mayor. He once had the honour of an introduction to the King, Edward VII., which was at a reception by the Lord Mayor of London to representatives of Municipal Corporations of the kingdom. The King then made inquiry respecting his Rochdale subjects, with special reference to John Bright. The alderman's portrait hangs in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall and is a striking likeness of the man and indication of his character.

1902.—Old cottage schoolhouse on the west side of the turnpike road pulled down during the summer of this year.

1902, August 12.—Thomas Wood was born at Saw Hill, Sowerby, near Ripponden, and died on the 12th

August this year at 48 years of age. He rose from the ranks to the position which he occupied at the time of his death. He was for some years a singer in the choir and a scholar in our school. He started as a boy porter at Rochdale Station and worked up step by step through the various grades—foreman porter, passenger guard, special ticket examiner, and platform inspector, and in the capacity of chief assistant stationmaster at Victoria Station, Manchester, for 15 years, after which he was promoted to the position of stationmaster at Exchange Station, Liverpool, where he became very popular after serving there about five years. He was a greatly respected and efficient official, and his death is deeply regretted by all who knew him. His body was interred at the Rochdale Cemetery. His sisters are still connected with the School in 1904 and earnest workers amongst us.

1902, September 1.—Sergeant John Storey Fenton, Royal Engineers, formerly a scholar in this School, and now on the staff of the Intelligence Department, War Office, London, has been awarded a medal for services rendered in connection with the Coronation of his Majesty King Edward VII.

1902, October 1.—Mrs. Sarah Ellen Healey and Miss Mary Fenton, on behalf of Lowerfold Church, collected the sum of £35 0s. 7d. towards the Free Methodist Twentieth Century Fund.

1903, June 5 (Whit-Friday).—Presentation of a Bible to Mr. Edward Consterdine, late Sunday School Superintendent, on the occasion of his leaving the country for Montreal, Canada, the following words appearing on the front page:—

> To Mr. Edward Consterdine, Superintendent, on the occasion of his leaving this country for Canada. The teachers and scholars also take this opportunity of expressing their high esteem for his personal character and devotion to duty. We also pray for his success in his new sphere of labour and that in the end we may all meet him through the mercy and love of God in a brighter and better world.—On behalf of the School, we remain, yours sincerely,
>
> JOHN FENTON.
> THOMAS MATTHEW.

1903, July 11.—James Leonard Maxim, B.Sc., teacher of the first class males, awarded the first prize by the Editor of the "Rochdale Observer" for the best sketch of a half-holiday in the country near home. (See "Rochdale Observer, 11th July, 1903, for sketch.)

1903, July 14.—Henry Heys, local preacher and a teacher of this school in 1845, preached in the Chapel in the afternoon from the text, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit," Acts vii., 59. He will be 77 years of age next month. The number of persons in congregation was 107.

1903, July 30.—Mrs. Sarah Lord of Healey, a member of our congregation, and the wife of John Lord, a teacher in the School, interred at Christ Church, Healey. Prior to the interment a service was conducted at the house by the Rev. J. Percival of Rochdale. At the Church the Vicar (the Rev. J. J. H. Cottle) officiated and was assisted by the Rev. J. Percival, the U.M.F.C. minister. She was 58 years of age. Wreaths and other floral contributions were sent by many friends and relations, amongst them one "With deepest sympathy from a few friends of the U.M.F.C., Lowerfold."

1903.—On Sunday, 2nd August, an old scholars' sing and re-union took place, when a large number of old scholars met and there were fairly large attendances of the general public. The preacher at the afternoon service was Alderman Cunliffe, who spoke from the text, Luke xix., 10: "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." An augmented choir, led by Mr. James Lord, former choirmaster, with Mr. N. Dearden at the organ, rendered the anthem, "Jerusalem, my glorious home" (Mason), and Miss Greaves sang "O rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn). Alderman Duckworth, J.P., preached at the evening service from the text, Matthew vii., 28: "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. The choir gave the anthem, "Lord, for thy tender mercies sake" (Farrant), and Miss Greaves sang "The better land" (Cowen). Collections and donations amounted to £21 6s. 10d., and were devoted to the chapel renovation fund. Many of the old scholars had tea together in the schoolroom and were delighted to renew the acquaintances of long years ago.

1903, October 11.—Re-opening services held in the Chapel this day after being closed six weeks for decoration. The weather proved wet, and there were therefore not as large audiences as were expected. Much pleasure was expressed at the improved appearance of the place and very interesting and profitable discourses were delivered by the venerable the Rev. John Mather of Bury (nearly 83 years of age). He was stationed in the Rochdale Circuit in 1855, 1856, and 1857, and made private reference to the happy recollections connected with Lowerfold. The offertories amounted to £8 1s. 11½d.

1903, November 7.—Mr. James Jackson, formerly a teacher in this Sunday School, and also a caretaker of these premises, died at St. Annes. The following account of him appeared in the local papers: "The death occurred very suddenly on Saturday night of Mr. James Jackson of Church Road, an employee in the sanitary department of the Urban Council. For some time Mr. Jackson had been suffering from an affection of the heart, for which he had been medically attended. He was out of doors on Saturday morning, and was feeling so much better that he intended returning to his work on Monday. After supper on Saturday night Mrs. Jackson, as was her wont, visited a lady next door to bid her good night. She was away a few minutes, and on her return Mr. Jackson was seated before the fire with an open Bible on his knees, reading. Presently the Bible fell on to the hearth. This did not alarm Mrs. Jackson, but as her husband made no effort to recover it she went up to him and spoke. He did not reply, but his head fell back, and he expired. Mr. Jackson came to St. Annes from Lowerfold, near Rochdale, 16 years ago, and he and his wife took charge of the Rochdale Children's Convalescent Home. Subsequently he resided in St. Alban's Road, where his first wife died, and eleven years ago removed to Church Road. Mr. Jackson was one of the founders of the Church Road Wesleyan Mission, and services were held at his house prior to the erection of the Mission Room. He was one of the Trustees of the Mission, and at the time of his death was Senior Society Steward. He was a devoted and unostentatious Christian worker, and had everybody's esteem. Mr. Jackson was also a member of the Order of Rechabites. He was 63 years of age, and leaves a widow and an adopted daughter (Mrs. J. Venables) to mourn their loss. Sympa-

Mrs. MARTHA HOYLE.

In her 80th Year.

thetic reference was made to the sad death at the services at the Mission Room on Sunday by the Rev. Dr. Burton and the Rev. W. J. J. Barkell."

1903, December 24.—Christmas Carnival held in the schoolroom. Opened by Miss Walker of Spotland Road. Chairman, Mr. John Ormerod of Bee House. Re-opened on December 25th by Alderman Hardman. Chairman, Councillor Thomas Smith of Middle Healey.

1903, December 26.—A concert and entertainment given by Mitchell-street choir in Lowerfold School for the benefit of the fund for decorating the Chapel. Chairman, Mr. Thomas Matthew.

1904, January 22.—A lecture on "Cobden" given in Hollows schoolroom by the Rev. W. Whitham, Primitive Methodist minister, under the auspices of the Lowerfold, Shawclough, and Healey Methodist Church Union. Chairman John Albert Bright, Esq., J.P.

1904, February 2.—This (Tuesday) evening a tea party and entertainment were held in the schoolroom. There was a large attendance. The provisions for the tea were given by a number of friends and the proceeds for admission were devoted to the Chapel renovation fund. Mr. F. Slater of Meanwood presided, and a capital concert was given by the Union-street Wesleyan Chapel choir. The entertainment was much appreciated and encores were numerous. A unanimous vote of thanks was accorded by the meeting to all those who had contributed to the evening's enjoyment.

1904, June 11.—James Hoyle of Healey Hall Bottoms died, and the district lost one of its oldest inhabitants. He was born at Wardle in 1823, and one of his recollections was of seeing the first train pass through Rochdale when the railway was opened from Manchester to Littleborough in 1839. By a singular coincidence he died on the 56th anniversary of his wedding day. On June 11th, 1848, he married Martha Pilling at St. James's Church, Wardleworth, which Mr. Hoyle always called "the chapel of ease." As scholars, they both attended Lowerfold Sunday School. A notable fact is that they had lived in the house where he died since November, 1848. Mrs. Hoyle is now the only surviving scholar who met on the first Sunday the School was opened in May, 1835, in the old cottage schoolroom.

She remembers as a little girl, then nine years of age, making the proud boast amongst her companions, "they had got a school of their own now." Up to this time she had attended Healey Stones School, and Lowerfold was nearer her own home. Mrs. Hoyle still continues to attend the Lowerfold Chapel and to live in the old home, and, considering her advanced age, is well and strong. With the exception of a few months immediately following her marriage she has lived at Healey Hall Bottoms ever since 1833, when her parents came into the Dell from Coupe, near Bacup. She was then nearly seven years old. Mr. Hoyle was always a thrifty, steady man, and though hard times came towards the end the old couple were enabled to keep the home together and to bear the pinch of poverty with the patience which always sweetens suffering.

December, 1904.—This month the village of Lowerfold lost two of its oldest inhabitants by the removal of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson to Littleborough. On account of advanced age and feeble health this worthy couple have gone to reside with their son, Mr. Robert Henry Wilson. In her youthful days Elizabeth Hoyle lived at Swinerootings, a small hamlet a little below the village of Lowerfold. From this hamlet, in 1840, she began to attend very regularly the Lowerfold Sunday School and afterwards became a teacher and a useful member of the Church. She received much of her early instruction from the founders of the School and experienced much sweet communion and fellowship with its devoted original workers for many years. In the year 1858 she married Mr. Henry Wilson, who had become a scholar in the same School in 1850. From this time, 1850, to the period of his removal to Littleborough he had an unbroken connection with the School for 54 years, and with the exception of a little more than a year from the time of their marriage lived in a house at the upper end of the village for about 46 years. For many long years he followed the occupation of a clogger, having his business at the top of the new road leading to Broadley Railway Station. At the age of 70 he received a Sunday School prize for regular attendance. His love and attachment to the School was constant. He occupied the position of teacher, assistant visitor, and Trustee, and in a variety of ways was a great help to the School's progress. At the time of his removal he was the oldest scholar on

the books. His son, Mr. Robert H. Wilson, is at present the teacher of the first class young men, although residing at Littleborough, and in this way the family have still a connecting link with the School with which they have been so long associated.

1905, March 12.—Mr. James Leonard Maxim has been a regular attender at the School since his admission on April 7th, 1881. By perseverance and steady work he has shown how it is possible for boys even in ordinary circumstances to climb the educational ladder of this country. His early education was received at Cronkeyshaw Board School, and although subsequently engaged as an errand boy, then as a grocer's assistant under Mr. Edmund Ashworth, and later as a flannelette raiser, after leaving the day school he strove to improve himself by attending continuation classes. Here he obtained several prizes and then became a student at the Municipal Technical School, soon becoming there one of the most prominent young men. From Caldershaw Mills he went as timekeeper to Mr. William Tatham's Machine Works and afterwards to the Corporation Sanitary Works in a similar capacity. In 1897 he was awarded a Taylor Scholarship, tenable for three years at the Technical School, and in 1899 (whilst still working for the Corporation) won in open competition the first Colonel Royds Science Exhibition, value £50 per year, for three years. With this he entered Owens College, Manchester, and resolved to become a science teacher. In the prosecution of his studies he secured the College prize for pure geology and a special prize from Professor Boyd Dawkins for applied geology and civil engineering. His work at Owens was successfully terminated in 1903, when, at the age of 25, he received the degree of Bachelor of Science (Victoria University). He was subsequently appointed a lecturer on physics, mathematics, and geology under the Rochdale Education Committee and for a short time taught classes in the Manchester School of Technology. During all this time he has never neglected his duties at Lowerfold. He has occupied the positions of Secretary to the Trustees, Assistant Secretary to the School, teacher of the first class males, and is now a member of the School Committee, besides continuing to devote his energies to the teaching of the young men. He attributes a large measure of his success to the impulses received at

Lowerfold and the encouragement of numerous friends. He strongly advises all young men to stick to the Sunday School if they desire to make their mark in the world, to form good characters, and become worthy citizens.

1905, April 11.—The fifth annual meeting of the Lowerfold, Shawclough, and Healey Methodist Church Union was held at Zion Chapel, Shawclough, on April 11th. Mr. John Fenton, President of the Union, occupied the chair. A report by the Secretary (Mr. F. Braceweli) of the work of the Union during the year was briefly referred to by the Chairman, who said that though the Union had not accomplished all it had hoped to do, still it was pleasing to know that the open-air week-night services, the united picnic parties, public meetings, and united religious services held during the year had been enjoyable and helpful. Meetings had been held in each place of worship by the representatives during the year, and these had been much appreciated. Mr. B. Lord also gave a very interesting address on the "Co-operative Institute Church," which was followed by a discussion in which Messrs. Alfred Wild, T. R. Hoyle, Wilfred L. Ashworth, Thomas Bamford, John Farrow, D. Buckley, and A D'Arcy Wall took part. The rest of the evening was spent in a social manner.

1905, April 23.—The seventieth Sunday School anniversary at Lowerfold was held this day. The sermons were preached afternoon and evening by the Rev. J. Longden of Todmorden. At the afternoon service the choir sang the anthems, "This is the day which the Lord hath made" (Beaumont), with solos by Mr. George Lord and Mr. Charles Hewitt; and "O clap your hands together" (E. Turner). In the evening the anthem, "This is the day which the Lord hath made" was repeated. "Sing unto God," with chorus by the choir, was rendered by Miss Hoyle from Baillie-street Chapel, and Mr. J. J. Grindrod. The service concluded with a fine interpretation of Handel's famous "Hallelujah Chorus." Collections in aid of the school funds, £31 19s. 5½d.

1905, April.—Mr. John Thomas Leach, a former scholar in the School and organist in the Chapel, appointed choirmaster and organist at the Established Church, Bo'ness, near Linlithgow, Scotland.

1905, April.—Demolition of Smallshaw Mill this month after standing empty some years, formerly run by Messrs. John Tweedale and Sons, cotton spinners.

1905, May 3.—Marriage of Mr. John Ernest Lord, a scholar in the first class. He is the descendant of a family long resident in Healey Hall Bottoms. For several generations the Lords had lived in this rural and sylvan spot within the rustic and humble stone dwellings. His father, Mr. James Lord, choirmaster, had been born here and also his grandparents, and worked for their daily bread at the woollen mills of Messrs. Jacob Tweedale and Sons. John Ernest's grandfather of the first degree on the mother's side, James Kay, built the first portion of Healey Hall Bottoms factory. James Kay's daughter, Judith, married Samuel Brierley of Heald Farm, who built the Sunday School in 1846, and Judith-street, abutting on the School, derives its name from her. John Ernest was admitted into the School at three years of age, on the 15th October, 1882. Frequently his mother, on the Sabbath, like many other mothers who worshipped at Lowerfold and who resided in the town, would bring provisions for the whole of the family to the early morning School and remain the whole of the day with their families, attending all the services of the sanctuary, and during the intervals of service would enjoy the delightful breezes of the surrounding hills and dales, thus on the Sabbath ministering to the wants of both body and soul. He says a desire to excel was early implanted in his mind by the example and teaching received in the House of God and in the Sunday School. He successively passed through the day school, continuation school, and technical schools of Rochdale and Manchester, gaining many valuable certificates, prizes, and scholarships, and by continued application to his studies qualified himself in such a way that he became a prominent official in the Sanitary Department of the Rochdale Corporation. At the age of 23 he was appointed to a responsible position in public health administration under the Levenshulme Council. During all this time he attended our School very regularly and punctually, and for a number of years filled the post of librarian as well as assistant teacher. His removal from the district to live at Levenshulme has resulted for the time being in his not being able to continue his attendance, but his love and

interest in all that concerns the School's welfare will, we believe, continue undiminished.

1905, May 25.—Events have now been recorded to the present date. Our predecessors, with those who are still living amongst us, have worked hard for the inculcation of the truths of the Gospel. For 70 years the work has been going on without a break. Work for God and humanity has never been allowed to stand still. The seeds of righteousness have been sown in the heart and carried by those who have received it at Lowerfold far and wide over the country and into distant lands. With the help of the Divine Spirit many good and noble men and women by their sacrificing effort have improved the social, moral, and spiritual condition of the people of the neighbourhood. The district has had its seasons of commercial prosperity and depression. The population of the neighbourhood is very much reduced, but the premises are freehold, and we may say free from debt. Those who have been at the head of affairs in the past have acted wisely in providing good, substantial, and convenient premises which may serve for many generations. This legacy has been left to those who follow. Let them not prize it any the less, but rather value it the more because of the sacrifice it has entailed. Their example should stimulate their sucessors. The trust is theirs. Let them not prove unworthy of it. Let it be said of them, they served their generation faithfully as their fathers did. We have increased advantages. Let us endeavour to possess increased wisdom and love that we may carry on the work when they have laid it down. Evil requires to be repressed and overcome and the good encouraged to become triumphant. Those we have loved and with whom we have had sweet fellowship we shall meet in the Better Land. They may have grown fairer and lovelier, but the essential elements of personality will be preserved; all the dear familiar traits and ways by which we knew them here we shall find in them there; they will be ours at once and for ever. Nay, they are ours even now. Let us never speak of them as though they were not. We are parted from them a little space—who can tell how far? A little time—who knows how long? But they belong to us as much as they ever did. Love is ownership. Love is not dead. Love gave them to us; love knit our souls with theirs. Is death mightier than love? Nay, verily; for He

whose name is Love hath conquered death. God gave to us these friends of ours. Is not every good and perfect gift from above?

"God lent them and took them, you sigh:
Nay, there let me break with your pain;
God's generous in giving, say I:
And the thing that He gives, I deny
That he Ever can take Back again."

Therefore, because He is Good, and because His power is equal to His goodness, we believe that when we pass beyond the veil we shall soon find those who now, for a little while, are beyond our sight. The Infinite Love knows where they are and knows how much we need them, and His hand will quickly conduct us to the homes where they abide, to the places that they have made ready for us. Therefore, from our hearts to them, and from their hearts to us, let sweet thoughts come and go, like angels ascending and descending, weaving the web of hopes and imaginings between the life that now is and the life that is to come, and making the common joys of time the prelude and the promise of the life unending.

"The good that we work for is hard to win,
But our labour and worship are woven in
To our marvellous web with the beauty we see,
Unfolding from blossom and star and tree,
That widens and lengthens and stretches above
Out into the deeps of Invisible Love.
O spirits dear, who have vanished from sight,
You are only hid in a splendour of light
That is as the dazzling soul of the sun;
There are many mansions, the home is one,
And the doors are open, the light shines through;
I am glad that I live in the world with you."

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

Chapel Steward .....John Fenton, Heald Cottage, Lowerfold.

Assistant Steward .....John Ormerod, Bee House, Healey Dell.

Treasurer for Trustees .....David Ashworth, 41, Sheriff-street.

Secretary for Trustees .....Robert Woolfenden, 14, Roefield Terrace, Spotland.

Missionary Secretary .....Norman Lord,
11, Marlborough-street.
Ladies' Miss. Aux. Secy.....Miss Ellen Mills,
11, Marlborough-street.
Organist .....Nathaniel Dearden,
8, Blenheim-street.
Choirmaster .....Albert E. Ashworth,
2, Healey Dell.
Seat Rent Steward.....Robert Woolfenden.
Chapel-keeper .....James Wareing,
400, Shawclough Road,
Lowerfold.

OFFICERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL, 1905.

Superintendents .....Alfred Maxim and
Thomas Matthew.
Assistant Superintendents...Norman Lord and
Leonard Mills.
Treasurer .....Joseph Mills.
Secretary .....Roland Hardman.
Assistant Secretary.....John Ashworth.
Visitors.....Job Broadbent, Mrs. James
Lord, and Mrs. Geo. Stott.
Librarian .....Frank Lear.
Assistant Labrarian .....Charles Hewitt.
Circuit Schools
Representatives...Job Broadbent and
Alfred Maxim.
Harmoniumists.....Jeremiah Haslam and
Walter Mills.
Committee.....David Ashworth,
James L. Maxim,
James Lord,
Thomas Shore,
Jane Mills,
Sarah Ann Wood.

LIST OF TEACHERS AND SCHOLARS.

First Class Males.

TEACHERS.

Robert Henry Wilson, 50, Featherstall Road,
Littleborough.
James Leonard Maxim, 404, Whitworth Road.

Mr. ALFRED MAXIM,

Present Superintendent, 1905.

Mr. THOMAS MATTHEW,

Present Superintendent, 1905.

1. Henry Wilson, 50, Featherstall Road, Littleborough.
2. Job Broadbent, 34, Infirmary Drive.
3. James Lord, 11, Marlborough-street.
4. Joseph Mills, 7, Susan Jane-street.
5. David Ashworth, 41, Sheriff-street.
6. Benjamin Lord, 31, Mount-street.
7. Jeremiah Haslam, 255, Whitworth Road.
8. Thomas Scholes, 4, Reform-street.
9. Alfred Maxim, 3, Hope-street.
10. James Woolfenden, 17, Progress-street, Castleton.
11. Thomas Woolfenden,, 26, Bence Road, Preston.
12. John Lord, 10, Penrith-street.
13. Arthur Butterworth, 11, Well Brow, Shawclough.
14. Stephen Shore, 2, Victoria-street, Whitworth.
15. Walter Mills, 91, Foxholes Road.
16. Thomas Matthew, 17, Shawclough Road.
17. Thomas Spencer, 420, Whitworth Road.
18. Albert E. Ashworth, 2, Healey Dell.
19. John William Scholes, 4, Reform-street.
20. Robert Woolfenden, 14, Roefield Terrace, Spotland.
21. Abel Butler, 4, Lytham-street.
22. William Henry Baker, 398, Shawclough Rd., Lowerfold.
23. Eli Ashworth, 20, Roefield Terrace, Spotland.
24. Thomas Shore, 7, Victoria-street, Whitworth.
25. Thomas Edward Dean, 2, Viking-street, Passmans.
26. John Fenton, Heald Cottage, Lowerfold.
27. Walter Swettenham, 28, Market-street, Healey.
28. John E. Lord, 4, Birch Grove, Levenshulme.
29. Robert Pickles Baker, 398, Shawclough Road.
30. John Ashworth, 112, Rooley Moor Road, Spotland.
31. Fred Buckley, 6, Melrose-street.
32. Frank Lear, 92, Market-street, Whitworth.
33. Thomas Alfred Maxim, 4, Cromer-street.
34. Charles Hewitt, West Bank, Lowerfold.
35. James Ashworth, 44, Sheriff-street.
36. Harry George Maxim, 3, Derwent-street.
37. William Rhodes, 8, Healey Dell.
38. Albert E. Scholes, Regent-street.
39. George Lord, 301, Bury Road.
40. Norman Lord, 11, Marlborough-street.
41. Leonard Mills, 7, Susan Jane-street.
42. Frank Haslam, 21, Croft Head Farm.
43. William Swettenham, jun., 28, Market-street, Healey.

44. Albert Maddock, Joy-street, Syke.
45. Roland Hardman, 405, Shawclough Road, Lowerfold.
46. Joseph Savin, 123, Market-street, Whitworth.
47. Thomas Bilsborough, 2, Harridge Cottages.
48. Thomas Wood, Road Lane Farm.
49. Bertie Baker, 398, Shawclough Road, Lowerfold.
50. Thomas Henry Lear, 103, Market-street, Whitworth.
51. Daniel King, 374, Shawclough Road.
52. Henry George Fenton, H.M.S. Minotaur, Portland.

SUPERNUMERARIES.

(a) Hargreaves Butterworth, Grasmere-street.
(b) Thomas Henry Ashworth, Merefield Road.
(c) Fred Ingle, Bernard-street.

Second Class Males.

TEACHERS.

Thomas Shore, 7, Victoria-street, Whitworth.
Joseph Mills, 7, Susan Jane-street.

1. Harry S. Lord, 301, Bury Road.
2. Walter Haslam, 21, Croft Head Farm.
3. Percy Cockitt, 30, Market-street, Ending.
4. William Lord, 301, Bury Road.
5. Herbert Whitworth, 4, Harridge-street, Lowerfold.
6. Albert Hewitt, West Bank, Lowerfold.
7. J. Edward Bellhouse, Tonnacliffe House.
8. Harold Catterall, 677, Whitworth Road, Healey.
9. Fred Savin, 123, Market-street, Whitworth.

Third Class Males.

TEACHERS.

Thomas Spencer, 420, Whitworth Road.
James Lord, 11, Marlborough-street, Spotland.

1. Jacob Oscar Fenton, Heald Cottage, Lowerfold.
2. James Harrison, Market-street, Ending.
3. Ernest Woolfenden, 17, Progress-street, Castleton.
4. Harry Haslam, Croft Head Farm.
5. Joseph Savin, 123, Market-street.
6. George Carver, Highgate, Healey.

Fourth Class Males.

TEACHERS.

Thomas Alfred Maxim, 4, Cromer-street.
Eli Ashworth, 20, Roefield Terrace, Spotland.

1. Harry Baker, 398, Shawclough Road.
2. Herbert Lord, 301, Bury Road.
3. Alfred Rhodes, 8, Healey Dell.
4. Herbert Ashworth, 13, Belgrave-street, Spotland.
5. Frank Whatmough, 187, Edmund-street West.

Alphabet Class.

TEACHERS.

Mary Jane Lord and Betty Lord.

1. Wilson Harrison, Market-street.
2. George Hodgkinson, Healey Hall Cottage.
3. Harry Cunliffe, Shawclough Road.
4. Thomas Henry King, 374, Shawclough Road.
5. Marshall Rhodes, 8, Healey Dell.
6. Ernest Butterworth, 11, Well Brow, Shawclough.
7. Betty Smith, 128, Tonnacliffe.
8. Elsie Ashworth, 13, Belgrave-street.
9. Elsie Greenwood, 152, Shawclough Road.
10. Gertie Hodgkinson, Healey Hall Cottage.
11. Florrie King, 374, Shawclough Road.

First Class Females.

TEACHERS.

John Fenton, Heald Cottage, Lowerfold.
John Lord, 10, Penrith-street.

1. Sarah Ann Wood, 552, Halifax Road, Smallbridge.
2. Elizabeth Lord, 11, Marlborough-street.
3. Alice Lord, 26, Howarth Cross-street, Smallbridge.
4. Ellen Mills, 11, Marlborough-street.
5. Ann Wood, Road Lane Farm.
6. Betty Lord, 26, Howarth Cross-street.
7. Martha Smith, 128, Tonnacliffe.
8. Jane Mills, 97, Ashworth-street.
9. Mary Matthew, 17, Shawclough Road.
10. Margaret Hannah Schofield, Milnrow Road.
11. Jane Ashworth, 41, Sheriff-street.
12. Annie Jane Schofield, 41, Sheriff-street.
13. Sarah Ellen Woolfenden, 26, Bence Road, Preston.
14. Maria Whatmough, 187, Edmund-street West.
15. Sarah Ann Spencer, 420, Whitworth Road.
16. Fanny Butterworth, 11, Well Brow, Shawclough.
17. Elizabeth Mills, 7, Susan Jane-street.
18. Margaret Isherwood, Healey Farm.
19. Mary E. Waring, 400, Shawclough Road.

20. Emma Woolfenden, 14, Roefield Terrace.
21. Mary Alice Scholes, Regent-street.
22. Amy Maxim, 3, Derwent-street.
23. Ellen Dean, 2, Viking-street, Passmans.
24. Sarah Cotterill, 1, Cherry Place, Lowerfold.
25. Mary Elizabeth Scholes, 4, Reform-street.
26. Ellen Butler, 4, Lytham-street.
27. Sarah Ellen Healey, 6, Harridge Cottages.
28. Mary Shore, 7, Victoria-street, Whitworth.
29. Emily Ingle, Bernard-street.
30. Jessie Ashworth, 20, Roefield Terrace.
31. Henrietta Maxim, 404, Whitworth Road.

SUPERNUMERARIES.

Hannah Butterworth, 439, Whitworth Road.
Alice Butterworth, 439, Whitworth Road.
Betty Wood, Binns Nook.
Mary Wood, 552, Halifax Road, Smallbridge.
Sarah Hunter, Brimrod Fold.
Hannah Foster, Norden.
Martha Law, Windy Bank Farm, Castleton.
Ellen Crabtree, Daniel Fold Farm.
Louisa Lord, 64, Oak-street, Southport.
Mary Butterworth, Market-street, Whitworth.
Alice Greenhalgh, Platting Lane.
Sarah Garside, Roefield, Meanwood.
Maria Stott, Roefield, Meanwood.
Elizabeth Wilson, 50, Featherstall Road, Littleborough.
Mary Alice Butterworth, Grasmere-street.
Rachel Ellen Ashworth, Merefield Avenue.
Alice Ann Dunham, 9, Elizabeth-street, Castleton.
Sarah Jane Scholes, 4, Reform-street.
Emily Wood, 552, Halifax Road, Smallbridge.
Mary Woolfenden, 17, Progress-street, Castleton.
Elizabeth Alice Shore, 2, Victoria-street, Whitworth.
Mary Ann Greenwood, 152, Shawclough Road.
Eliza Oddie, Halifax Road.
Eliza Diggle, Healey Farm.

SECOND CLASS FEMALES.

TEACHER.

David Ashworth, 41, Sheriff-street.

1. Clara Crowther, Milnrow Road.
2. Clara Haslam, 5, Mizzy Road.

3. Hannah Maria Lear, 92, Market-street.
4. Florence Hewitt, West Bank, Lowerfold.
5. Emma Jane Ingle, Cork, Ireland.
6. Mary Jane Lord, Brookdale, Healey.
7. Mary Hannah Pickles, Spotland.
8. M. E. Mc.Loughlin, 12, Harridge-street.
9. Rachel Isherwood, Healey Farm.
10. Jane Woolfenden, 383, Shawclough Road.
11. Edith Howarth, 13, Belgrave-street, Spotland.
12. Annie Woolfenden, Tonnacliffe House.
13. Amy Ashworth, 41, Sheriff-street.
14. Alice Swettenham, 28, Market-street.
15. Mary Ann Ashworth, 4, Healey Dell.
16. Thirza Bilsborough, 2, Harridge Cottages.
17. Esther Latham, Falinge Road.
18. S. A. Grindrod, 106, Shawclough Road.
19. Hettie Hall, 12, Healey Dell.
20. Annie Fenton, Heald Cottage, Lowerfold.
21. Louisa Baker, 398, Shawclough Road.

Third Class Females.

TEACHER,

Sarah Ann Wood, 552, Halifax Road.

1. Lilian A. Wood, Road Lane Farm.
2. M. A. Tomlinson, 411, Shawclough Road.
3. Emily Smith, 17, Joseph-street.
4. Janie Mc.Loughlin, 12, Harridge-street.
5. Elizabeth Ellen Ashworth, 13, Belgrave-street.
6. May Hewitt, West Bank, Lowerfold.
7. Edith Swingler, 396, Shawclough Road.
8. Hannah Holt, 32, Market-street.
9. Janet Mc.Loughlin, 12, Harridge-street.
10. Alice Ashworth, 13, Belgrave-street.
11. Alice Dean, 2, Viking-street.
12. Florence Holt, 32, Market-street.
13. Ethel Crowther, 2, Leaf Terrace, Healey.
14. Florrie Lloyd, 14, Harridge-street.
15. Ethel Lloyd, 14, Harridge-street.
16. Mary Swettenham, 28, Market-street.
17. Clara Kershaw, 404, Shawclough Road.

Fourth Class Females.

TEACHERS.

Hannah Maria Lear, 92, Market-street.

Jane Mills, 97, Ashworth-street.

1. E. E. Swingler, 396, Shawclough Road.
2. Ethel Mc.Loughlin, 12, Harridge-street.
3. Clara Diggle, Healey Farm.
4. Ada Mills, 7, Susan Jane-street.
5. Alice Lord, 301, Bury Road.
6. Elizabeth L. Maxim, 3, Derwent-street.
7. Lois A. Bradley, 17, Shawclough Road.
8. Mabel Catterall, 677, Whitworth Road.
9. Lilian Tranter, 12, Healey Dell.
10. Edith Bellhouse, Tonnacliffe House.
11. May Greenwood, 152, Shawclough Road.
12. Maria Woolfenden, 17, Progress-street, Castleton.

Fifth Class Females.

TEACHERS.

Hettie Hall and Jane Woolfenden.

1. Eleanor Holt, 32, Market-street, Healey.
2. Grace Winifred Fenton, Heald Cottage, Lowerfold.
3. Lizzie Butterworth, 11, Well Brow.
4. Florrie Savin, 123, Market-street.
5. Annie Hodgkinson, Healey Hall Cottage.
6. Bertha Shore, 2, Victoria-street, Whitworth.
7. Florrie Bilsborough, 2, Harridge Cottages.
8. Emily Bilsborough, 2, Harridge Cottages.

From the establishment of the School (1835) to the present time (1905) 1,226 male and 1,215 female scholars have been registered.

Band of Hope.

President .....Mr. James Lord.
Vice-President.....Miss Sarah Ann Wood.
Treasurer .....Mr. Walter Mills.
Secretary .....Mr. Fred Buckley.
Assistant Secretary.....Mr. George Lord.
Auditors .....Mr. Norman Lord and
Mr. Roland Hardman.

Committee.....Mrs. Dean,
Miss Mary Ann Ashworth,
Miss Anne Fenton,
Miss Amy Ashworth,
Miss Louisa Baker,
Miss Hettie Hall,
Miss Alice Ashworth,
Miss Ellen Mills,
Miss Emily Smith,
Mr. Charles Hewitt.

MARRIAGES SOLEMNIZED IN U.M.F.C., LOWERFOLD.

1871, June 3.—Joseph Mills, Ashworth-street, son of William Mills, to Elizabeth Oddy, Lowerfold, daughter of Samuel Oddy, by the Rev. Joseph Townend.

1873, March 13.—David Ashworth, Lowerfold, son of Eli Ashworth, to Jane Butterworth, Lowerfold, daughter of James Butterworth, by the Rev. George Turner.

1873, December 17.—James Ashton Garside, Lark Hill, Spotland, son of Levi Garside, to Sarah Pickup, Passmans Farm, daughter of George Pickup, by the Rev. T. B. Saul.

1874, September 10.—George Noble Hallowell, Manchester, to Zipporah Anne Butterworth, Thornbank, Shawclough, daughter of John Butterworth, by the Revs. William Woodward and T. W. Townend.

1875, April 14.—Edmund Dean, Spotland Road, son of Edmund Dean, to Ellen Pickup, Passmans, daughter of George Pickup, by the Rev. T. B. Saul.

1875, December 13.—Thomas Henry Ashworth, Heald, Lowerfold, son of William Ashworth, to Sarah Barker, Beightons Farm, daughter of Alfred Barker, by the Rev. T. B. Saul.

1876, March 30.—Alfred Maxim, Lowerfold, son of Thomas Maxim (deceased), to Alice Mills, of Thornbank, daughter of James Mills (deceased), by the Rev. Joseph Townend.

1876, August 22.—Jacob Leach, Healey, son of Jacob Leach (deceased), to Hannah Thompson, Ending, daughter of William Thompson, by the Rev. T. W. Townend.

1877, May 31.—John Robinson, asylum attendant, Lancaster, son of William Robinson, to Elizabeth Leach, Shawclough, daughter of John Leach, by the Rev. Edwin Hall.

1877, July 14.—Joseph Grindrod, Ending, son of Edmund Grindrod, to Harriett Clegg, Healey Lodge, daughter of Abel Clegg, by the Rev. T. B. Saul.

1878, April 11.—James Lord, Healey Hall Bottoms, son of John Lord, to Elizabeth Mills, Peel-street, daughter of James Mills, by the Rev. T. J. Dent.

1878, August 15.—Samuel Haslam, Shawclough, son of James Haslam, to Mary Tweedale, Ending, daughter of Abraham Tweedale, by the Rev. S. Chester.

1880, April 24.—John Thomas Tweedale, Middle Healey, son of David Tweedale, to Elizabeth Ann Greaves, Middle Healey, daughter of Samuel Greaves, by the Rev. Samuel Chester.

1880, November 18.—James Shepherd, Smallshaw, son of James Shepherd, to Sarah Brierley, Heald, daughter of Samuel Brierley, by the Rev. J. T. Moore.

1881, September 29.—Andrew Hardman, Lowerfold, son of Robert Hardman, to Fanny Grindrod, Heights Lane, daughter of Paul Grindrod (deceased), by the Rev. John Moore.

1883, June 14.—Levi Plested, Beightons, son of Job Plested, to Martha Jane Tweedale, Healey Cottage, daughter of David Tweedale, by the Rev. A. J. Walkden.

1883, September 10.—Nathaniel Hardman, Lowerfold, son of Robert Hardman, to Betty Tweedale, Ending, daughter of Abraham Tweedale, by the Rev. T. J. Dickinson.

1885, July 18.—Edmund Ashworth, Spotland Fold, son of James Ashworth, to Sarah Jane Howarth, Lowerfold, daughter of David Howarth, by the Rev. A. J. Walkden.

1886, January 2.—Abraham Clegg, Watkin-street, son of James Clegg, to Elizabeth Ann Tweedale, Ending, daughter of Abraham Tweedale, by the Rev. T. J. Dickinson.

1886, April 24.—Samuel Spencer, Healey, son of Abraham Spencer, to Martha Tweedale, Higher Ending, daughter of Abraham Tweedale, by the Rev. T. J. Dickinson.

1887, October 12.—Joseph Greenwood, Spotland, son of John Greenwood, to Mary Ann Woolfenden, Lowerfold, daughter of John Woolfenden, by the Rev. William Yates.

1888, July 12.—Levi Wood, Birches, son of Jonathan Wood (deceased), to Betty Haslam, Mizzy Road, daughter of James Haslam, by the Rev. W. G. Howe.

1889, May 21.—James Woolfenden, Lowerfold, son of John Woolfenden, to Mary Butler, Market-street, Healey, daughter of John Butler, by the Rev. H. Raymont.

1890, April 25.—Robert Henry Wilson, Lowerfold, son of Henry Wilson, to Helena Hollis, Featherstall Road, Littleborough, daughter of Thomas Hollis, by the Rev. E. Evans.

1890, December 25.—Isaac Fielding Smith, Tong End, son of Nicholas Smith, to Martha Wood, Birches, daughter of Jonathan Wood, by the Rev. H. Raymont.

1892, June 11.—Thomas Scholes, Thornbank, son of John Scholes, to Sarah Jane Tweedale, Princess-street, Whitworth, daughter of Abraham Tweedale, by the Rev. H. Raymont.

1892, October 29.—Charles Dunham, Size Houses, Whitworth Road, son of Robert Dunham, to Alice Ann Butterworth, Bentmeadows, daughter of John Butterworth, by the Rev. William Dunstan.

1893, May 24.—Joseph James Taylor Morris, Toad Lane, son of Joseph Morris, to Grace Mahala Maxim, Hope-street, daughter of Alfred Maxim, by the Rev. William Dunstan.

1894, June 20.—Thomas Woolfenden, Lowerfold, son of John Woolfenden, to Sarah Ellen Haslam, Mizzy Road, daughter of James Haslam, by the Rev. M. T. Myers.

1895, June 5.—John William Whatmough, Lowerfold, son of Joshua Whatmough, to Maria Woolfenden, Lowerfold, daughter of John Woolfenden, by the Rev. Edward Hogg.

1895, December 21.—Arthur Butterworth, Bentmeadows-street, son of John Butterworth, to Fanny Wood, Primrose-street, daughter of Jonathan Wood (deceased), by the Rev. E. Hogg.

1896, July 2.—Stephen Shore, Victoria-street, Whitworth, son of Thomas Shore (deceased), to Elizabeth

Alice Woolfenden, Lowerfold, daughter of John Woolfenden, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1896, September 19.—Herbert Wynne, Whitehall-street, son of James Wynne, to Clara Bentley, Blenheim-street, daughter of Eli Bentley, by the Rev. E. Bocock.

1896, October 31.—John Robert Stott, Lowerfold, son of Edwin Stott, to Frances Alice Hough, Barn Terrace, Whitworth, daughter of James Hough, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1896, October 31.—Charles Johnson, Birches, son of Jacob Johnson (deceased), to Mary Albiston, Rooley Moor Road, daughter of Joseph Albiston, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1897, October 28.—Hartley Collinge, Derwent-street, son of John Collinge, to Emily Dunham, Grouse-street, daughter of Robert Dunham, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1898, May 11.—William Mills, Ashworth-street, son of William Mills (deceased), to Jane Butler, Higher Ending, daughter of John Butler, by the Rev. Charles Ogden.

1898, October 13.—Thomas Oddie, Mizzy Road, son of Richard Oddie, to Eliza Baker, Lowerfold, daughter of Robert P. Baker, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1898, November 19.—Robert Woolfenden, Lowerfold, son of John Woolfenden, to Emma Garside, Passmans Farm, daughter of James Ashton Garside, by the Rev. E. Bocock.

1898, December 14.—James Waring, Prince-street, son of Richard Waring (deceased), to Mary Elizabeth Baker, Lowerfold, daughter of Robert P. Baker, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1899, September 23.—John Henry Moore, Hanover-street, son of George Moore (deceased), to Mary Matthew, Shawclough, daughter of Thomas Matthew, by the Rev. C. H. Butcher.

1899, October 14.—John William Scholes, Shawclough, son of John Scholes, to Mary Elizabeth Woolfenden, 394, Lowerfold, daughter of John Woolfenden, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1901, May 27.—Robert Matthews, Oldham Road, to Martha Ellen Dunham, Milnrow Road, by the Rev. Charles Ogden.

1901, September 7.—Abel Butler, Market-street, Whitworth, son of John Butler, to Ellen Albiston, Thornbank,

Shawclough, daughter of Joseph Albiston, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1901, September 14.—Abraham Healey, Leftkiln-street, son of John Healey, to Sarah Ellen Ashworth, Healey Dell Cottages, daughter of William Ashworth, by the Rev. Jonathan Evans.

1902, September 10.—James Isherwood, Healey Farm, son of John Isherwood, to Margaret Taylor, Chadwick Terrace, Healey, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1902, September 30.—Thomas Shore, Victoria-street, Whitworth, son of Thomas Shore (deceased), to Mary Fenton, Heald Cottage, Lowerfold, daughter of John Fenton, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1903, December 27.—Fred Ingle, Taylor-street, son of George Ingle (deceased), to Emily Ashworth, Healey Dell Cottages, daughter of William Ashworth, by the Rev. J. J. Martin.

1903, December 29.—Thomas Alfred Maxim, Hope-street, son of Alfred Maxim, to Sarah Alice Tattersall, daughter of Robert Tattersall, Spotland Bridge, by the Rev. J. Percival.

1904, May 31.—Eli Ashworth, Sheriff-street, son of David Ashworth, to Jessie Chaffer, Sheriff-street, daughter of Alfred Chaffer, by the Rev. J. Percival.

1904, August 20.—John Lord, Penrith-street, son of Thomas Lord (deceased), to Betty Woolfenden, 383, Lowerfold, daughter of John Woolfenden, by the Rev. C. Hunt.

1904, September 3.—James Leonard Maxim, Hope-street, son of Alfred Maxim, to Henrietta Woolfenden, Thornbank, daughter of John Woolfenden, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1904, October 30.—James Robert Schofield, Clement Royds-street, son of James Holt Schofield, to Mary Ann Morris, Back Peel-street, daughter of Joseph Morris, by the Rev. J. Percival.

1905, March 30.—Frank Lear, Broadley, son of William Henry Lear, to Hannah Maria Dean, Passmans, daughter of Edmund Dean, by the Rev. C. Hibbert.

1905, May 3.—John Ernest Lord, Marlborough-street, son of James Lord, to Mary Bentley, Marlborough-street, daughter of Eli Bentley, by the Rev. J. Spivey.

Rochdale:

"OBSERVER" GENERAL PRINTING DEPARTMENT, DRAKE-STREET.

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